



Champlain Valley Area Health Education Center

CONNECTING...

Students to Careers

Professionals to Communities

and Communities to Better Health



E-Newsletter from Champlain Valley AHEC

Loads of changes best describes the past 6 months at Champlain Valley Area Health Education Center in St. Albans, Vermont.

- **New Director joins organization:** Helen Riehle was selected to begin as Executive Director in mid-May. A former State Senator and Executive Director of the Vermont Program in Quality Health Care (VPQHC), Riehle brings legislative, non-profit management and health care expertise to her role as Champlain Valley AHEC's new leader. [Learn more...](#)
- **New Health Career Program Coordinator hired:** With the departure this spring of Elizabeth Zinno Ratta, Champlain Valley AHEC was fortunate to welcome former high school educator Jocie Mueller to the Champlain Valley AHEC in early July. She will lead future MedQuest summer camps, provide middle and high school health career education presentations, organize Shadow Days, and the annual Focus Conference at the University of Vermont (UVM). [Learn more...](#)
- **Three-year, multi-million dollar career opportunity grant:** The three Area Health Education Centers across the state, Northeastern Vermont, Southern Vermont and Champlain Valley, are recipients of a Health Careers Opportunity Pipeline (HCOP) federal grant. The award will support creation of new and expansion of existing health career workforce activities for students in grades K-16. [Learn more...](#)
- **Position created by Health Careers Opportunity Pipeline (HCOP) grant:** Jane Nesbitt will become the new Health Careers Facilitator. She will provide the leadership for the new activities envisioned by the HCOP grant. Jane joins the staff with considerable experience in program/project management and design. [Learn more...](#)
- **Carol Tremble, Grand Isle CPA joins Champlain Valley AHEC Board of Directors:** The Champlain Valley AHEC Board and staff welcome our new director! For complete list of board members with links to individual biographies, [click here](#).

Recent Activities:

- **Shadow Days:** Champlain Valley AHEC in partnership with Northwestern Medical Center (NMC) and Porter Medical Center (PMC) offered two Health Careers Shadow Day opportunities for local high school students. The students were selected from a pool of applicants to participate in the programs at NMC on October 20 and PMC on October 21. They learned about infection control, the importance of confidentiality, numerous health care

careers, and education paths - all of this through presentations, a three-hour job shadow and lunch with health care professionals. Learn more about the October 2011 [NMC Shadow Day](#) and [Porter Shadow Day](#).



Students from Addison County high schools attended the Health Careers Shadow Day at Porter Medical Center on October 21, 2011. (From left to right: Meghan Santry, Meghan Livingston, Kaitlin Lawson, Caitlynn Duval, Jonathan Welch, Tyler Hogan)



Students from Franklin County high schools attended the Health Careers Shadow Day at Northwestern Medical Center on October 20, 2011. (From left to right: Nakia Wighton, Chloe Johnson, Jacob Morrill, Jessika Perretta, Alexandria Kimball, Julia Snyder)

- **Coding Workshops:** Champlain Valley AHEC was pleased to offer two continuing education coding workshops at two locations, NMC in St. Albans and PMC in Middlebury. Caroline Peucker, a certified coder with 25 years of experience, presented to a total of 36 physicians, practice managers and coders participating in the November 2 trainings. NMC and PMC generously provided the training sites.
- **Interpreter Training:** Champlain Valley AHEC has just completed its first 60 hour training program for medical interpreters using a new curriculum and training materials developed by Cross Cultural Communications Systems, Inc. (CCCS, www.cccsorg.com). Our program offers a new and more comprehensive method of teaching medical interpretation, and now includes a mental health component and a new approach to language coaching. Russian, Spanish, French, Arabic, Somali, and Nepali were languages represented by the fall class's bilingual participants. [Learn more...](#)
- **Interpreter Summit:** Under the guidance of (now retired) Supreme Court Justice Denise Johnson the Vermont Interpreter Summit has convened an interdisciplinary (judicial, medical, human services) effort to create "an entity that can improve language access to healthcare, legal, and social services for refugees, immigrants, and other limited English proficient residents of Vermont, by promoting best practice standards and providing training for interpreters and service providers," as stated in the Summit mission. Both Helen Riehle (Champlain Valley AHEC Executive Director) and Judy Wechsler (Champlain Valley AHEC Education Resource Coordinator) have been involved with this statewide effort.
- **SEARCH Summer Projects - 2011: SEARCH Experiences** are designed to offer interdisciplinary, community-based service-learning opportunities for health professions students. These two- and four-week experiences give students a deeper understanding of primary care in a rural Vermont community, serving underserved populations, the important role of the community, and the challenges and rewards of this work and setting. Champlain Valley AHEC facilitated the SEARCH projects of the following students:
 - Peter Cooch and Dave Larsen, UVM College of Medicine, whose project helped to address some of the challenges that Latino migrant farm workers face in accessing healthcare in Franklin County. For more information (including project poster and quick reference guides in English and Spanish), [click here...](#)
 - Caitlin Dempsey and Alixandra West, UVM MSW students, and Heath Lutton, UVM COM, sought to increase the access for seniors at the Program of All-Inclusive Care for the Elderly (PACE) to healthy, locally grown food. For more information (including project poster), [click here...](#)
 - Chelsea Harris, UVM COM student, updated the Champlain Valley AHEC Cultural Competency for Health Care Providers manual and has provided our region's primary care practitioners with new, revised and additional information to assist them in providing health care by understanding Vermont's ethnically diverse population. For more information (including project poster), [click here...](#)
 - George Vana, Laura Rabideau, and Ben Ware, UVM COM students, worked together on a project to determine whether medical students regard electronic medical records (EMR) as a barrier or an enabler of learning and whether their curriculum covering EMR could be improved. For more information (including project poster), [click here...](#)

Opportunities for Students - Apply Now!

- **High School Students**
 - **Focus on Health Careers Conference** is a full day event, for high school students, at the University of Vermont's College of Medicine. Focus has workshops taught by healthcare professionals, medical skills taught by medical students, various exhibits run by college and healthcare exhibitors, delicious catered lunch and more. [Learn more...](#)
 - **MedQuest** is an intense week-long residential program for tenth and eleventh graders, offered twice during the summer. MedQuest focuses on career and college preparation and skill development through workshops, presentations, job shadows, and more. [Learn more...](#)
 - **Shadow Day** is a full day event for tenth, eleventh, and twelfth grade students. Each county has its own Shadow Day, filled with presentations, skill development and a job shadow. [Learn more...](#)
- **Medical Students**
 - **National Health Service Corps Students to Service Loan Repayment Program (S2S LRP) application cycle is now open!** The S2S LRP provides loan repayment assistance to medical students (MD and DO) in their last year of school, in return for a commitment to provide primary health care services in eligible Health Professional Shortage Areas of greatest need. For more information or to apply, [click here](#).

In the Pipeline

- **Primary Care Survey Results 2011** - Thanks to the 100% response rate from our region's primary care practices, Champlain Valley AHEC's Primary Care Survey (PCS) 2011 has compiled the most recent data in our region to get a snapshot of the supply and distribution of primary care practitioners. This inventory guides AHEC's program development and highlights emerging primary care workforce trends in Vermont. Look for the release of the statewide data in the Vermont Primary Care Workforce 2011 Snapshot in January 2012. The following Vermont Workforce reports are currently available:
 - [2011 RN Workforce Summary](#)
 - [2011 APRN Workforce Summary](#)
 - [Vermont Primary Care Workforce 2010 Snapshot](#)
- **College Quest to Health Careers** is a six week residential program for current 11th grade Vermont students interested in health care careers. The no cost program, to be held at St. Joseph's College in Rutland, is geared to students who are first in their family to attend college or who come from families with modest income. The structured and diverse program will immerse the student in the college experience. It will include experiential learning in basic medical skills, behavioral health, pharmacy and primary care along with an Introduction to College Studies course and activities focused on leadership, personal wellness and social issues impacting the health care field. Applications will soon be available online and from school guidance counselors, school nurses and VSAC counselors. Watch our website (www.cvahec.org) for more information.
- **Save the Date! April 17, 2012 - Vermont Geriatrics Conference**



SAVE THE DATE!

Vermont Area Health Education Centers (AHEC) Network
presents the

Vermont Geriatrics Conference

April 17, 2012

Doubletree Hotel
Burlington, Vermont

To request more information, please visit
<http://cme.uvm.edu> or call (802)656-2292

The E-Newsletter from Champlain Valley AHEC is published several times a year. For further information about Champlain Valley AHEC, please visit our website at www.cvahec.org.