



FRONTIER FOOTNOTES

Idaho Area Health Education Center
A Program of Mountain States Group, Inc.

“Promoting Careers in Health Care in Underserved Idaho Communities”

Winter-Spring 2010

Welcome to new Idaho AHEC Board Members

Two new members joined the Idaho AHEC Board at our fall meeting. They are **Steve Schneider**, MD, Chief Medical Officer at Healthwise, Inc. and **Mimi Hartman-Cunningham**, Bureau of Community & Environmental Health, IDHW. For the complete list of our eleven Idaho AHEC Advisory Board members, please visit our Website www.idahoahhec.org and click on Board Members.

Idaho AHEC Staff Changes

Mary Lou Kinney, M.Ed. assumed the role of Idaho AHEC Director on October 1st. Mary Lou is joined by two part time AHEC staff: Sara Herring, Idaho AHEC Youth Outreach Coordinator ; and Patty McCrorie, Idaho AHEC Administrative Assistant. Mary Lou, Sara and Patty also work on other health care projects at Mountain States Group, Inc. These projects complement their AHEC responsibilities.

Mary Lou Kinney
Director,
Idaho AHEC

Sara Herring
Youth Outreach
Coordinator,
Idaho AHEC

Patty McCrorie
Admin Assistant
Idaho AHEC



Check it Out!

The Idaho Oral Health Alliance (IOHA) is a non-profit organization of dental professionals, public health agencies, businesses, community health providers and individuals, dedicated to better oral and overall health for Idahoans. IOHA is open to all who have an interest in promoting good oral health and increasing access to preventive and restorative dental care. To learn more, visit the IOHA website at www.idahooralhealth.org.

Frontier Footnotes is supported, in part, by the State Office of Rural Health and Primary Care, Idaho Department of Health and Welfare. Idaho AHEC thanks you for your interest!

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Visit our website at:

www.idahoahhec.org

Frontier Footnotes is produced two times a year by the Idaho Area Health Education Center, a program of Mountain States Group and a regional partner of the University of Washington School of Medicine. Frontier Footnotes provides a forum for information exchange. Views, opinions, and informational content of the articles appearing in this publication are the responsibility of the contributing organization and do not in any way represent views and opinions of all contributors. Contact Idaho AHEC,

mkinney@mtnstatesgroup.org or call 1-800-836-8064 ext. 253. If you no longer wish to receive this publication, please contact us.



LOAN REPAYMENT OPPORTUNITY

The National Health Service Corps Loan Repayment Program provides \$50,000 (or the outstanding balance of qualifying student loans if it is less than \$50,000), tax free, to primary care medical, dental and mental health clinicians in exchange for two years of service at an approved site in a Health Professional Shortage Area. Upon completion of the service commitment, clinicians may be eligible to apply for additional support for extended service. You can begin this process today! The clinician must apply and be approved, and the site where patient care is provided must also apply and be approved for the clinician to receive funding. The National Health Service Corps received stimulus funding which must be spent down by the fall of 2010 – consequently, the window to apply is open for a limited period of time. More information may be found at the following website: <http://nhsc.bhpr.hrsa.gov/loanrepayment> - or contact Laura Rowen at (208) 334-5993 or RowenL@dhw.idaho.gov



Idaho Communities Benefit from Recovery Act Funding to Community Health Centers.

The American Recovery and Reinvestment Act of 2009 (the "stimulus package") included a historic investment in Community Health Centers of \$2 billion. As of December 2009, awards to Idaho include:

Of \$155 million in Recovery Act funds awarded nationally for new Community Health Centers, \$650,000 a year over the next two years has made it possible for the northern Idaho community of Lewiston to establish a Community Health Center clinic. The new clinic, which opened its doors July 2009, is a subsidiary of the Washington-based Community Health Association of Spokane.

Of \$338 million awarded nationally under the Recovery Act Increased Demand for Services opportunity for Community Health Centers, Idaho received nearly \$2.8 million in one-time funding to serve over 14,000 additional patients statewide during the current economic downturn. That is about \$186 per new patient to help offset the cost of providing their primary health care over a two-year period.

Of \$850 million awarded nationally to Community Health Centers under the Recovery Act Capital Improvement Program, Idaho received \$6.5 million. These one-time funds will increase health centers' capacity to provide health care to those who might otherwise go without a regular source of care. The health centers are using these funds to purchase much-needed basic medical and dental equipment, repair buildings and parking lots, remodel or construct clinic buildings to increase capacity to serve patients, upgrade outdated phone systems and other electronics, and to make minor modifications such as ramps or handrails to increase safety and accessibility.

These stimulus funds are also helping the health centers to retain clinic staff and to create new health care and construction jobs throughout the state over the next two years.

For more information, contact Kathy at kcoumerilh@idahopca.org

IDAHO HEALTH CAREERS



The State Office of Rural Health and Primary Care has implemented a web-based program called *Idaho Health Careers*. This application allows us to match candidates to opportunities, track vacancies, and direct resources to safety net providers in rural communities and underserved areas of the state. This tool is being offered at no cost to you.

The website will accept vacancy postings from entities in rural communities and areas of the state with a federal designation as an area of underservice. In addition to these criteria, postings will be allowed for Critical Access Hospitals, Certified Rural Health Clinics, Federally Qualified Health Centers and Residencies.

Idaho Health Careers will support vacancy postings for the following clinician types:

- Family Medicine Physicians
- Pediatricians
- Physician Assistants
- Dentists
- Internal Medicine Physicians
- Psychiatrists
- Nurse Practitioners
- OB-Gyn Physicians
- Clinical Psychologists
- Certified Nurse Midwives

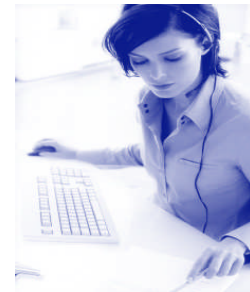
Entities which meet the above criteria are invited to post vacancies for allowable clinician types. If you decide to post an opportunity in *Idaho Health Careers*, you will be responsible for the content of the posting, assuring that the information is accurate and contemporary, maintaining contact with the State Office of Rural Health and Primary Care with regard to your postings), and providing timely follow-up and communication with any candidate that is provided you through this service. You may access *Idaho Health Careers* to post your opportunity by going to www.IdahoHealthCareers.org. If you need assistance or have any questions, please feel free to contact our office at (208) 334-0669, or RuralHealth@dhw.idaho.gov.

Short on time?

How about participating in a webinar? You can learn more about a range of topics from patient satisfaction to electronic medical records by accessing the Idaho Hospital Association's list of webinars.

Log in www.teamiha.org/Education and find out what is available.

For additional information or any of the educational offerings, please contact IHA's Director of Education, Toni Pugmire, at 208-338-5100 x 201 or tpugmire@teamiha.org.



Idaho AHEC Launches Program for rural Middle School Students

This spring 2010, twenty to twenty-five middle school students in Mountain Home (Elmore County) will learn about health care careers in their community and how to plan to achieve a career in health care. This Elmore community cooperative endeavor, modeled on other national AHEC health care career programs for middle school students, will: 1) Engage the students in the Orientation "hands on" curriculum; 2) Evaluate their learning and interests at the end of the Orientation; and 3) Continue the students into a "career pipeline" through community and state resources like HOSA, high school counselors, Elmore Medical Center's volunteer program, WWAMI, and the ID AHEC youth outreach on-going communication system.

For more information about this program, contact Sara Herring at sherring@mtnstatesgroup.org

**Do you want to learn about a wide variety of health care careers?
Visit <http://explorehealthcareers.org>**

Student / Resident Experiences and Rotations in Community Health (SEARCH)

In September 2009, the Idaho Primary Care Association (IPCA) was awarded the contract for the Idaho SEARCH Program. SEARCH, which stands for Student/Resident Experiences and Rotations in Community Health provides quality training opportunities in medically underserved areas of Idaho for up to 30 students and residents annually. The program, funded through the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, Health Resources and Services Administration, aims to encourage healthcare professionals to select careers in underserved areas upon completion of their training. IPCA managed the program from 1998 - 2008 and is pleased to once again accept applications from the following student/resident groups:

- * Medical Students and Family Practice Residents
- * Physician Assistant Students
- * Nurse Practitioner Students
- * Dental Students and Residents
- * Dental Hygiene Students
- * Master of Social Work Students

SEARCH experiences include profession-specific as well as multi-disciplinary clinical activities. Participants are placed in 4 - 6 week rotations at approved sites and are awarded a \$500 living & travel allowance and \$40 per day up to 25 days for time spent in clinic. There are participating sites all over the state. Although a few are in larger towns, most are in rural areas. Each student is assigned a Clinical Preceptor and a Community Mentor and a community/clinic project ranging in topics and intensities is required.

For more information, visit <http://idaholiveworkplay.org/rotations> or contact: Katrina Hoff, SEARCH Program Director, khoff@idahopca.org or (208) 898-3824.

Community Health

Idaho Partnership for Hispanic Health Expands to Mountain Home



The Idaho Partnership for Hispanic Health in partnership with Elmore Medical Center, will be hiring two bilingual promotores or community health outreach workers by the end of the first quarter of 2010. These individuals will be trained to implement Compañeros en Salud, a program focused on reducing the risk for metabolic syndrome among Idaho's Hispanic population. After the training in April, project staff will be canvassing the City of Mountain Home to pre-enroll all Hispanic families that are interested in participating. Ten families will be randomly selected to participate in three groups per year starting in the Fall 2010. The Partnership is excited to be working with Elmore Medical Center to support the efforts of their Center for Community Health in addressing nutritional issues and obesity. We will work closely together to maximize limited resources and add value to existing local efforts. For more information, please contact Linda Powell, Project Director at lindapowell@mtnstatesgroup.org or (208) 336-5533 ext 235.

"One Year Later: A Review of the Findings and Recommendations from the Idaho Nursing Workforce Advisory Council"

In January 2009, following a six month gap analysis, The Idaho Nursing Workforce Advisory Council published its goals and recommendations for the state. Findings from the gap analysis resulted in three goals with corresponding recommendations. A number of themes can be extrapolated from the recommendations including: the need for more nursing faculty; higher-level educational programs and graduates; and increased retention of Idaho graduates.

As Idaho's baby boomer generation ages, the state population is expected to increase by over 50 percent for persons age 55 and over by the year 2016. To meet the increasing demand for nursing care and to fill existing vacancies, the Council predicts Idaho will need to acquire 7,400 more registered nurses by 2016. In addition, Idaho needs more nurses in the practice setting and more nursing faculty to prepare future nurses. This need for more nurses was attributed to gaps in the supply and demand of practicing nurses as well as the diminishing capacity of educational institutions to meet that demand.

Recruiting qualified nursing faculty remains a struggle within Idaho. Currently, professors 50 years or older comprise over half the faculty, with half of them planning to retire in the next five years. Professors under age 40 account for only 10 percent of the faculty body. In order to replace retiring faculty members, Idaho educational institutions need to attract graduate prepared nurses. To date, Idaho's masters programs have been greatly limited in number and no doctoral degrees in nursing have been available.

So, what is the current status of nursing educational offerings? Idaho State University's (ISU) PhD in Nursing program is slated to start as early as fall of 2010 and will be the first nursing doctoral degree to be offered in Idaho. Shortly following the advent of the PhD program, ISU plans to implement a new Doctorate of Nurse Practice (DNP) program, another first for Idaho. Boise State University's (BSU) current graduate program is population health focused; however, it does include course work and curriculum development to prepare students to become educators and administrators across Idaho. BSU is also making excellent progress toward having 50 percent of its nursing faculty hold an earned doctoral degree (currently it is 33 percent). Northwest Nazarene University currently offers an online articulated Master of Science in Nursing degree designed to prepare registered nurses for faculty positions. As more graduate nursing degree programs become available in the state, more non-traditional students, such as current RNs, can advance their education without leaving the state. These academic enhancements can potentially increase enrollment in nursing education and promote faculty retention.

However, the declining economy has negatively impacted employment opportunities for nurses. Since the completion of this report (The 2009 Review of Findings), many health care facilities were forced to implement hiring freezes as patient census declined following the economic downturn. To make matters worse for new graduates, many seasoned nurses delayed retirement, or returned to work as other family members became unemployed. New graduates struggle to find work as the competition increases and job availability declines.

The rate of nursing graduates is expected to increase by an average of 5.9 percent annually until 2013. This increase will result in 9400 new nurses and will improve Idaho's potential to respond to increasing demands. However, only 65 percent of new graduates are expected to enter the Idaho nursing work force. At a time when chronic vacancies still exist, it is troubling to think well prepared nurses are unemployed in the state. Idaho graduates may be forced to leave the state for work, diminishing the state's retention rate and increasing the current gap between supply and demand. However, with the addition of doctoral level nursing education, Idaho is moving towards filling the gaps in faculty and workforce within the state. As a current nursing student, it is exciting to witness the profession transforming within the state.

For more information on the Idaho Nursing Workforce Advisory Council findings and recommendations please visit the following link, http://labor.idaho.gov/publications/Nursing_Executive_Summary.pdf.

Cari Cardoni, the author of this article, is a second degree seeking student scheduled to graduate from BSU in December 2010 with her BSN. Cari is President of her local SNA chapter and involved in a number of research studies with her mentor Dr. Cynthia Clark. Eventually, Cari hopes to complete a Nurse Practitioner degree and practice integrated medicine. Idaho AHEC invited Cari, with permission from her BSU faculty, to submit this article for this edition of Frontier Footnotes.

Visit AHEC website as seen below at www.idahoahhec.org

Idaho Area Health Education Center

A Program of Mountain States Group

208-336-5533



Idaho AHEC



Public health officials throughout Idaho continue to monitor flu-like illnesses. The state is posting this data on www.swineflu.idaho.gov every day at approximately 2 p.m.

Register your 2010 event NOW on our ID. AHEC Calendar!

From October 2008 through September 2009, the ID.AHEC Website had 1,202,448 hits and 43,156 visits. Many of those hits were to our AHEC calendar—so it is worth your time to click on to “post your event” at the top of this page.

Know an uninsured child/youth?

Dial 2-1-1 for more information.

**Continuing Education Calendar
Idaho WWAMI 8th Annual
Mini-Medical Series**

A four week series of lectures on Thursday evenings from 7 to 9 p.m. starting February 11th through March 4th, 2010. This year's focus “Skin: The Body Protector. Thursday evening from 7-9 p.m. at St. Luke's Regional Medical Center (Anderson Center) in Boise starting February 11th through March 4th . Contact Claudia @ clauhass@uw.edu for more information. Lecture series is available through video streaming on www.uidaho.edu/boise/wwami beginning April 1st.

Continuing Education Resources
[American Academy of Pediatrics](#)
[American Assoc. of Family Physicians](#)
[CDC](#)
[HIV Medical Association](#)
[Idaho Medical Association](#)
[Pharmacy](#)
[SCAHEC, Disaster Preparedness](#)
[Stroke Rapid Response](#)
[UW School of Nursing CME](#)
[The University of Washington School of Medicine](#)

Health Careers Links
[Explore Health Careers](#)
[Health Occupations Students of America \(HOSA\)](#)
[Idaho Health Care Jobs](#)
[National Health Service Corps - Funding Increase](#)
[Occupational Outlook Handbook](#)
[YEXT Podiatrists](#)

Environmental Health Conference

March 17-19, 2010
Boise State University, Student Union

"The Future of Environmental Health:
What Role Will We Play?"
Keynote Speaker: Nelson Fabian, Executive Director, NEHA

Presented by the Idaho Environmental Health Association
To register for all or part of the conference, visit <http://www.ieha.wildapricot.org/>

2010 Idaho Perinatal Project Winter Conference-Online Registration Coming Soon!

Co-Sponsored by St. Luke's Health System

Thursday, February 18, 2010
Friday, February 19, 2010
Nampa Civic Center
311 Third Street South
Nampa, ID 83651

NATIONAL—SAVE THE DATES

- **21st Annual National Rural Health Policy Institute, January 25-27, 2010**
Washington, DC. Please send your rural health issues and concerns to Dave Schmitz, IRHA President, at dave.schmitz@fmridaho.org for inclusion in the legislative discussions.
- **23rd Annual Rural Health Care Leadership Conference, February 7-10, 2010**
Phoenix, AZ Contact: www.healthforum.com
- **National Area Health Education Center Organization Conference, June 20-24, 2010**
Las Vegas, NV Contact: www.nationalahec.org.

REGIONAL—SAVE THE DATES

- **8th NW Regional Critical Access Hospital Conference – March 23, 2010, Spokane, WA**
This one-day conference is designed specifically for CAH administrators, staff, clinicians, and board members. Experts will present on quality/performance improvement, finance, CMS, and more. This conference is produced and supported by state offices of rural health for Alaska, Idaho, Montana, Oregon, and Washington. For more information, please visit <http://www.spokane.wsu.edu/researchoutreach/AHEC/2010/index.html#RCAHC>.
- **23rd NW Regional Rural Health Conference – March 24-25, 2010, Spokane, WA**
The conference will feature current policy and regulatory developments at the federal, regional, state and local levels which impact healthcare delivery. The second day will focus on workforce recruitment and retention strategies. For more information, please visit <http://www.spokane.wsu.edu/researchoutreach/AHEC/2010/index.html#RCAHC>
- **“From Hurt to Hope: Discovering Universal Approaches to Strengthening Supportive Learning Environments & Resilience” Conference, April 22 & 23, 2010 Spokane, WA**
Contact: www.spokane.wsu.edu for more information
- **InCITE 2010 Annual Faculty Development Workshop “Distance Learning, Simulation, Clinical Informatics and Telehealth” , June 8-10, 2010 WSU-Spokane, WA** hosted by Interprofessional Collaboration for Integrative Technologies in Education (InCITE).
Contact: incite@u.washington.edu

**Remember to post your events on our Idaho AHEC calendar.
It's easy! Go to www.IdahoAHEC.org/calendar**

STATE OF IDAHO— SAVE THE DATES

- **Oncology Nursing Society's Cancer Chemotherapy Training Course 2010**

Classes will be limited to 15 Participants

Feb. 4 & 5 – St. Luke's Meridian. Register by January 4th

May 6 & 7 –St. Luke's Boise. Register by April 5th

Sept. 9 & 10 –St. Luke's Boise. Register by August 6th

Contact: Cara Cordova 208-381-4726 cordovac@slrmc.org

- **8th Annual Idaho WWAMI Mini-Medical School -**

Four consecutive Thursday evenings beginning February 11th, 2010

This year's focus "Skin: The Body Protector. Thursday evening from 7-9 p.m. at St. Luke's Regional Medical Center (Anderson Center) in Boise starting February 11th through March 4th.

Contact Claudia @ clauhass@uw.edu for more information. Lecture series is available through video streaming on www.uidaho.edu/boise/wwami beginning April 1st

- **2010 Idaho Perinatal Project Winter Conference-
Thursday, February 18, 2010- Friday, February 19, 2010**

Co-Sponsored by St. Luke's Health System.

Nampa Civic Center, 311 Third Street South, Nampa, ID 83651

This comprehensive two day conference is designed for OB-GYN's, neonatologists, pediatricians, physicians in family practice, nurses, and other healthcare specialists involved in maternal/child/gynecological medicine. Visit www.idahoperinatal.org website for more information.

- **Environmental Health Conference "The Future of Environmental Health:
What Role Will We Play?"**

March 17-19, 2010

Boise State University, Student Union

Keynote Speaker: Nelson Fabian, Executive Director, NEHA

Presented by the Idaho Environmental Health Association

To register for all or part of the conference, visit <http://www.ieha.wildapricot.org/>

- **Annual Patient Safety and Quality Improvement Conference**

April 15-16, 2010, Boise, ID

The conference will be held at the DoubleTree Riverside (Boise) and will focus on effective communication in enhancing patient care quality and safety. Awards of Excellence in Healthcare will also be presented to organizations in Idaho that have made significant contributions through innovative, measurable improvements in healthcare.

For more information, please contact Chanda Neth at chandan@qualishealth.org or (800) 488-1118 ext. 5939.

Visit our website at:

www.idahoahcec.org

STATE OF IDAHO—SAVE THE DATES (CONTINUED)

- **2010 IOHA Spring Meeting, Friday, April 16, 2010**

Idaho Oral Health Plan. Topic of the meeting is discussion of the new Idaho Oral Health Plan. The meeting will take place at Blue Cross, 3000 E Pine Ave, Meridian, ID. Time will be announced. Please visit the IOHA website at <http://www.idahooralhealth.org/> for more information.

- **Anderson Center at St. Luke's Regional Medical Center in Boise—**

April 29, 2010 - 5:00 pm to 8:00pm

The State Office of Rural Health and Primary Care is happy to present an opportunity for Idaho rural health organizations to meet the Idaho family medicine residents.



Space is limited, so if you would like to participate, or for more information please contact the Idaho SORH at: RuralHealth@dhw.idaho.gov

- **Biennial Idaho Rural Health Association Conference – April, 30, 2010, Boise, ID**

The Biennial IRHA Conference will be on April 30th at St. Luke's Regional Medical Center's Anderson Center, and will be in conjunction with the Idaho Public Health Association and the Idaho Nurses Association. Additional details will be available at www.IdahoRHA.org

SOME IDAHO LINKS FOR INFORMATION ON CURRENT DISCUSSIONS ON HEALTH CARE NEEDS

- ⇒ **Idaho Hospital Association** great resource for Idaho Hospital Information and current health care discussions, www.teamiha.org
- ⇒ **Idaho Primary Care Association**—information on the community health centers in Idaho, <http://www.idahoipca.org>
- ⇒ **Institute of Rural Health** resources for improving health in rural communities, <http://www.isu.edu>
- ⇒ **Idaho Legislature Website**, follow link to 2009 Interim Committees—Health Care Task Force <http://legislature.idaho.gov>

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Boise, Idaho 83702-5111

