



FRONTIER FOOTNOTES

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

“Promoting Careers in Health Care in Underserved Idaho Communities”

Summer—Fall 2011

2010-2011 Projects and Programs supported by



Idaho AHEC

Through funding support from Idaho AHEC, Idaho State University (ISU) dental hygiene students provided oral health education in April 2011 to pre-school through 3rd grade Idaho children in schools located in Terreton, Howe, and Arco. The ISU students performed oral screenings and fluoride varnish for approximately 230 children. Referrals and recommenda-

tions were left with the teachers to send home with the children. Our thanks to ISU faculty member Jacque Freudenthal RDH, MHE, Idaho State University, Department of Dental Hygiene for working with us to make this project possible. This is an excellent example of AHEC's mission to "connect students with careers, professionals to communities and communities to better health."

Idaho AHEC is sponsoring the nationally recognized **“Elder Investment Fraud and Financial Exploitation CME Program”** as a June 16th after lunch track (2-3 p.m.) in conjunction with the 2011 Idaho Summit on Elder Abuse and Exploitation at Boise State University. The Idaho Department of Finance and AC/MEC are working with us to offer this presentation. The presentation will offer 1 CME credit in Medical Ethics and will be facilitated by Dr. Barry Cusack, MBCHB from the VA Medical Center in Boise. Please visit the Summit website <http://idahoeldersummit.org/> for more details.

R/UOP: Rural/Underserved Opportunities Program

THANK YOU

Through our partnership with University of Idaho and WWAMI, Idaho AHEC gives some funding support for a four week, elective immersion experience in community medicine for Idaho WWAMI medical students between their first and second year of medical school. During their four week rotation, between 15 and 20 medical students each summer live in rural or urban underserved communities

throughout Idaho and work side-by-side with local physicians providing health care to underserved populations. **Idaho AHEC salutes these dedicated physician “preceptors” who help us “grow our own” rural health care workforce in Idaho!**

AHEC Projects continue on page 2.

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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.



Orientation to Health Care Careers Opportunity for Idaho's



Rural Sixth Grade Students

In cooperation with the State Office of Rural Health and two Idaho communities (Mountain Home and Weiser), Idaho AHEC provided sixth graders an opportunity to learn about health care careers from health care professionals in their own communities and to visit the high schools to experience some interactive learning facilitated by the high school science and math teachers. The sixth grade students not only learned about a much broader range of health care careers and opportunities but also realized taking the required math and science courses to attain those careers is doable. A total of 31 students participated in the Orientation eight hour series that was conducted after school on weekdays in May at both Weiser and Mountain Home locations. The pictures show Weiser 6th graders using the stethoscope to listen to their heartbeats. (Ms. Karma Laan was introducing her health care career as a school nurse in Weiser) and Mountain Home 6th grade students learning about being an EMT at the Elmore Medical Center. Idaho AHEC hopes to continue sponsoring this Orientation series in more rural communities



Living Well in Idaho

The Chronic Disease Self-Management Program (CDSMP), known as “Living Well in Idaho,” is an educational program offered currently in five local public health districts in Idaho. AHEC promotes this program through a partnership with Sage Community Resources and BSU Center on Aging. Idaho AHEC helped to fund graduate students’ internships to participate in delivering this Program in southern Idaho rural communities.

The CDSMP focuses on problems common to individuals suffering from chronic diseases (like diabetes and asthma). Coping strategies such as action planning and feedback, behavior modeling, problem-solving techniques, and decision making are applicable to all chronic diseases. To learn more about Living Well in Idaho or to find workshops in your area, contact the following coordinators:

Mary Petty, Panhandle Health District: (208) 415-5295
 Nancy Rush, Central District Health Dept: (208) 327-8546
 Jan Mittleider, College of Southern Idaho: (208) 732-6488
 Cherie Nelson, Southeastern District Health Dept: (208) 478-6315
 Kaylene Craig, Eastern Idaho Public Health Dept: (208) 533-3150

Idaho AHEC funded Rural Nursing Scholarships for three RN to BS students from Hailey, Payette and Rupert for the summer 2011 at Boise State University. Our thanks to Jeri L. Bigbee, PhD, RN, Jody DeMeyer Endowed Chair Boise State University, Department of Nursing for helping to make these scholarships available to rural Idaho students.



Hand Washing is one of the most important —
 and easiest —
 ways to prevent infectious disease.

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!

HEALTH CARE CAREER OPPORTUNITIES



NIC is offering *free tuition* (in advance) to healthcare and IT facilities who enroll five or more employees in one of their 10-credit online Electronic Medical Records programs.

For a limited time, NIC is offering certificate programs in Electronic Medical Records Adoption for Health-care Practices (EMRA) and Electronic Medical Records IT Support (EMRITS). Both are selective admission programs, designed for those with healthcare or IT experience, and are offered online so students don't have to come to NIC's campus. Tuition reimbursement is available to the first 300 students who complete an EMR certificate by March 31, 2012.

We are accepting applications now for **Summer** and **Fall** 2011. The EMR programs are grant funded only through March 31, 2012. Contact Sue Shibley, Health IT Grant/EMR Program Manager at sue_shibley@nic.edu

Apply now, and take advantage of this opportunity while funds are available for tuition reimbursement. For each college credit earned: • AHIMA members earn 15 CEUs and • AAPC members earn 10 CEUs. NIC's Electronic Medical Records/HIT certificate program(s) are funded by the Office of the National Coordinator, Department of Health and Human Services ARRA support Award # 90CC007701.

Loan Repayment Opportunity - The National Health Service Corps Loan Repayment Program provides \$60,000 (or the outstanding balance of qualifying student loans if it is less than \$60,000), 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 for full-time clinicians, and 4 years of service to part-time clinicians with a minimum of 20 hours a week. Upon completion of the service commitment, clinicians may be eligible to apply for additional support for extended service. You may begin the process today – the site where the clinician provides services must apply and be approved, and then the clinician may apply for loan repayment for providing care at an approved site. The application cycle for loan repayment is expected to open in October of 2011. 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



Rural Healthcare Exchange Program “Peer-to-Peer Mentoring in Rural Idaho”



What is the Rural Healthcare Exchange Program? This program provides opportunities for health organizations serving rural and underserved areas of Idaho to learn from their peers. The Rural Healthcare Exchange Program provides travel support for individuals or small groups to meet with similar entities from other areas of the state and share information, ideas, and successful approaches to improving quality and access to healthcare services.

Who is eligible? The program is open to staff serving Idaho's Critical Access Hospitals, Rural Health Clinics, Federally Qualified Health Centers, and Free Medical Clinics. Eligible applicants also include rural non-profit EMS agencies, rural health grant writers, and foundation staff. The program does *not* include visits with consultants, conference travel, or support for regularly scheduled meetings or training events.

For more information or to obtain an application, contact:

State Office of Rural Health & Primary Care

ruralhealth@dhw.idaho.gov
www.ruralhealth.dhw.idaho.gov

208-334-0669

HEALTH CARE CAREER OPPORTUNITIES (Continued)

Health Profession Students, Residents and Sites

There's still time to apply for this year!

Earn While You Learn! The Idaho SEARCH Program is still taking applications from health professions students and residents for participation in a National Health Service Corps program that provides quality clinical training opportunities for students and residents in primary care settings. Four- to six-week rotations provide rich experiences in rural and underserved communities throughout Idaho. Participants are paired with a primary care preceptor and a community mentor and are required to complete a community project during the rotation. Stipends of up to \$1,500 are awarded to help with living and travel expenses. Train in multi-disciplinary and multi-cultural environments while earning academic credits and \$\$\$.

Only 9 awards remain for the current program year, which ends 9/30/11. Medical and dental students and residents, nurse practitioner, physician assistant, dental hygienist, and masters level behavioral health students are eligible to apply. For more information, contact Katrina Hoff, Idaho SEARCH Program Director, at (208) 898-3824 or khoff@idahopca.org or visit <http://idaholiveandworkplay.org/training>



Rural Health Care Access Program (RHCAP)



The Idaho State Office of Rural Health and Primary Care invites your community to explore the Rural Health Care Access Program (RHCAP). Established by the Idaho State Legislature, RHCAP helps rural and underserved Idaho communities improve access to primary medical and dental health care through grants to support projects that address barriers to care.

Grant Categories:

- Community Development
- Tele-health Projects
- Recruitment & Retention
- Other activities to improve access to care

RHCAP is a competitive grant program that provides awards up to \$35,000 a year. **The grants are limited to a one-year period only.** Eligible applicants must be registered non-profit or governmental organizations, and proposals must serve designated Health Professional Shortage Areas or Medically Underserved Areas. Applications are available on the State Office of Rural Health website beginning June 15, 2011, and are due August 30, 2011.

Questions?

Email: RuralHealth@dhw.idaho.gov

Phone: Mary Sheridan (208) 334-0669

Website: www.ruralhealth.dhw.idaho.gov

Legislation: <http://legislature.idaho.gov/idstat/Title39/T39CH59.htm>



The State Office of Rural Health and Primary Care manages 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.

Article continued on next page.

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

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

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 posting(s), 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 the State Office of Rural Health and Primary Care at (208) 334-0669 or RuralHealth@dhw.idaho.gov.

What's New?

Changes to the Idaho Smiles (Dental) Program take effect

July 1, 2011

Due to the state revenue shortfall, the Idaho Legislature did pass a bill to reduce the Medicaid adult dental program benefits to an "emergency only" benefit.. This action affects all adults on the Basic and Enhanced Medicaid plans with the exception of adult pregnant women. Adult pregnant women will continue to have the current Basic Medicaid adult benefit package. The benefits for both Basic and Enhanced Medicaid children are not changing and will continue as they are currently structured.

DentaQuest was given the covered codes for the new adult program and they are preparing provider and member notifications. DentaQuest will distribute this information in May. A summary of the emergency adult coverage includes a limited oral exam, intraoral periapical films, panoramic film, extractions, sedation and palliative treatment of pain. The full code list will be included in the provider notification letter and the updated Office Reference Manual will be available by July 1st, 2011.

This decision is a dramatic change to the adult Medicaid program. DentaQuest's mission is to work to improve the oral health of all members and as such they regret this decision. At the same time, they do understand the need to reduce costs and control budgets. DentaQuest asks that you support DentaQuest and the Idaho Smiles program as these changes are made in the market. If you have any questions at all, please contact DentaQuest Customer Service, 1-800-936-9078. More information about DentaQuest can be found on their website, www.dentaquest.com.

Congratulations to BSU on their Nursing Research Grant Award Funded by the National Council of State Boards of Nursing, Center for Regulatory Excellence (\$113,538), this two-year research project will address the critical question, "Are more nurses per capita associated with healthier populations?". This project has important implications for workforce planning and regulation in the U.S. and internationally, particularly in addressing issues of nursing shortages and promoting the health of populations, especially in rural and underserved communities. Jeri L. Bigbee, PhD, RN, FNP-BC, Boise State University School of Nursing will be the Principal Investigator, and Sandra Evans, MAEd, RN, Executive Director, Idaho Board of Nursing will be the Co-Investigator.



What's New? (Continued)

Advocates organize to support victims of abuse.

Boise, Id. The Idaho Justice Alliance for Vulnerable Adults (JAVA) is a newly established collaboration of agencies and advocates dedicated to strengthening community partnerships to increase awareness and education about abuse of vulnerable adults, which includes elderly and disabled adults. JAVA's goal is to ensure that every vulnerable adult in Idaho is visible and valued.

Members of JAVA are currently working with Idaho Legal Aid to develop a Legal Guide for Older Adults. The guide will be distributed at the **Idaho Summit on Elder Abuse and Exploitation on June 16 and 17 at Boise State University** and it will also be available as an on-line publication and at all public libraries in the state.

Abuse and exploitation is an under recognized problem with devastating and even life threatening consequences. No one really knows how wide spread the problem is because victims are often reluctant to report the mistreatment. It is estimated that only 1 in 14 cases of abuse and 1 in 25 cases of financial exploitation are reported.

The Idaho JAVA is administered through the Center for the Study of Aging at Boise State University and supported in part by a grant from the Administration on Aging and the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services. It is a component of the Elder Justice Community Collaboration project administered by the National Center for the Prevention of Elder Abuse (NCPEA) for the National Center on Elder Abuse. For more information or to get involved please contact Dr. Sarah Toevs 208-426-2452.

Kudos to St. Mary's and Clearwater Valley Hospitals and Clinics Cottonwood and Orofino, Idaho who were awarded "Outstanding Rural Health Organization" by the National Rural Health Association @ their May 2011 Conference in Austin, Texas



Idaho State
UNIVERSITY

Idaho State University-Meridian to open new Delta Dental clinic in late summer 2011

Meridian- A new dental clinic that will serve low-income patients in the Treasure Valley and provide advanced training for licensed dentists is scheduled to open in August 2011 at the Idaho State University-Meridian Health Science Center, thanks to a \$500,000 gift from Delta Dental Community Outreach and funding from the 2010 Idaho Legislature.

"The opportunity to partner with ISU and its Advanced Dental Residency program is a natural fit for Delta Dental," said Jean De Luca, president and chief executive officer of Delta Dental of Idaho. ISU's President Arthur C. Vailas says the clinic furthers the university's mission to improve oral health care for all Idahoans—particularly uninsured and underserved adults and children.

Construction of the \$1.5 million clinic, designed by Hummel Architects of Boise, began Jan. 24, 2011. The 5,200-square-foot facility will have 12 clinical treatment rooms, an X-ray and sterilization lab, faculty offices, a waiting room and reception area. In addition to the Delta Dental gift, the 2010 Idaho Legislature awarded ISU \$1 million for clinic construction.

In 2005, ISU expanded its advanced dental residency program to the Treasure Valley, admitting four licensed dentists each year to complete an intense 12-month training program in advanced dentistry techniques and procedures.

ISU's current facility—ISU Family Dentistry—located at 2033 E. Summersweet Drive in east Boise will close when the new clinic opens.

Media contact: Chris Gabettas, 208-373-1806, gabechri@isu.edu

NATIONAL—SAVE THE DATES

- **“Emergencies in Primary Care” July 18-20, 2011, Disney Grand Conference Center, Anaheim, CA**
www.mceconferences.com or 1-888-533-9031
- **Hot Topics in Primary Care July 31 – August 3, 2011 Jackson Hole, WY**
For more information: www.contemporaryforums.com
- **Advanced Critical Care Nursing Summit, August 7 – 10, 2011, Snowmass, CO**
For more information: www.contemporaryforums.com
- **Collaborating Across Borders III (CAB III) Interprofessional Collaboration: From Concept to Preparation to Practice November 19-21, 2011, Tucson, Arizona.**
This conference will be particularly relevant to health care practitioners, researchers, academics from universities, colleges and institutes, health system leaders, students, and patient organizations. Register early. www.cabarizona2011.org

STATE OF IDAHO—SAVE THE DATES

- **Idaho Summit on Elder Abuse & Exploitation - Boise, ID, June 17 – 18, 2011, Boise State University Student Union Building, Boise, ID**
Contact Sara Toevs @ 208-426-5899 or aging@boisestate.edu or www.idahoeldersummit.org
- **Idaho Medical Association 119th Annual Meeting and House of Delegates, July 15 - 17, 2011, Coeur d'Alene Resort, Coeur d'Alene, ID**
www.idahomed.org
- **Nurse Practitioners Idaho Annual Fall Conference, September 8 – 9, 2011,-Boise, ID**
www.npidaho.org
- **Idaho Nurses Association 2011 Conference, September 29-30, 2011, Boise State University, Boise, ID** “Promoting a Healthy Idaho”, presented by the Idaho Nurses Association, Idaho Student Nurses Association, Idaho Public Health Association, and Idaho Rural Health Association.
This conference will feature speakers are Dr. Karen Daley, president of the American Nurses Association, and Dr. Ted Epperly, past president and current board chair of the American Academy of Family Physicians and the CEO of the Family Medicine Residency of Idaho. Dr. Epperly will speak on health care reform and its impact on nursing and public health in Idaho. See <http://idahonurses.org> for more information.
- **Meet the Residents event Idaho State University, Pond Student Union, Wednesday, October 19, 2011** The State Office of Rural Health and Primary Care is happy to present a “Meet the Residents” event in Pocatello, Idaho, along with partners at the Idaho State University Family Medicine Residency Program and the Idaho Primary Care Association. This is an opportunity for Idaho rural health organizations to meet the Idaho Family Medicine Residents. Space is limited, and registration will begin this summer. For more information please contact the Idaho SORH at: RuralHealth@dhw.idaho.gov or (208) 334-0669. A save the date card with more information will be distributed soon!
- **24th Annual Idaho Conference on Health Care and 4th Annual Thomas Geriatric Health Symposium, October 21, 2011, Idaho State University, Pocatello, ID.** More information will be available by August 2011. If you have any questions, please contact ISU's Division of Continuing Education at extendedlearning@isu.edu or (208) 282-3155
- **“Blazing New Trails” – Idaho , RHC-CAH-Free Medical Clinic Conference, November 3, 2011, Doubletree Riverside in Boise.** Save the date for the annual Idaho Rural Health Clinic (RHC) – Critical Access Hospital (CAH) conference. **New this year:** informational tracks for Free Medical Clinics. Take advantage of the opportunity to network with peers, obtain advice from industry experts, and learn to blaze new trails! Travel and lodging support is available to Idaho RHCs, CAHs, and Free Medical Clinics with extensive travel demands. For more information, please contact the State Office of Rural Health and Primary Care at RuralHealth@dhw.idaho.gov, or (208) 334-0669.

Idaho AHEC Advisory Board

- Jim Girvan, Ph.D, MPH - AHEC Board Chair**, Boise State University, Boise, ID
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- Mary Barinaga, MD**, WWAMI Assistant Clinical Dean, WWAMI Idaho Office for Clinical Medical Education, Boise, ID



Enjoy a healthy lifestyle!

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