The AHEC Mission

The Consortium for Health Education in Appalachia Ohio (CHEAO) is an Area Health Education Center that has a mission to improve the health of people in Appalachian Ohio by fostering academic and community collaboration, emphasizing primary care and focusing on underserved areas. It is one of seven medical colleges in the Ohio Statewide AHEC program and serves 21 Appalachian counties.

CHEAO maintains the standards of accreditation established by the American Osteopathic Association, the American Nurses Credentialing Center’s Commission on Accreditation, and the Ohio Nurses Association.

AHEC: Partners in Education
Helping You Help Others

Consortium for Health Education in Appalachia Ohio (CHEAO)
an Area Health Education Center

Connecting Students to Careers, Professionals to Communities, and Communities to Better Health

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The Area Health Education Center program was developed by Congress in 1971 to recruit, train and retain a health profession workforce committed to underserved populations. The Consortium for Health Education in Appalachia Ohio (CHEAO) is the name of our Area Health Education Center (AHEC). We partner with primary care providers, state agencies, clinics, schools, and other key stakeholders to promote and support programs that will enhance the health careers workforce and foster better health for Southeast Ohio communities.

Ohio University Heritage College of Osteopathic Medicine (OU-HCOM) is the fiscal agent for CHEAO. CHEAO is governed by a board representing community health agencies and practicing health care professionals. A major goal of CHEAO is to promote collaboration among students in health care professions and the community. Through this partnership, health professionals and allied health members are better prepared to meet the specific needs of those living in rural underserved areas.

AHEC impacts communities through diverse programming.

**PROGRAMS PROVIDED THROUGH CHEAO**

- CHEAO is an approved sponsor of continuing education programs for physicians, nurses, and healthcare professionals in Southeast Ohio.
- Lunchtime Seminars are held monthly and offer continuing education credits.
- CHEAO serves as an American Heart Association Training Center for healthcare organizations in Athens and surrounding counties.
- AHEC coordinates health fairs, school visits, campaigns to raise public awareness of health issues, and other service learning activities.
- CHEAO supports the coordination of clinical training of OU-HCOM medical students in community sites and service learning activities for first and second year medical students and other students in health professions.

- CHEAO supports TOUCH (Translating Osteopathic Understanding into Community Health) which is a national initiative that encourages and recognizes osteopathic medical students who work to improve the health of their local community through service.
- Premedical students interested in observing an osteopathic physician in a clinical setting are invited to consider a preclinical assignment.

- The Health Resource Library is located in Room 020 at OU-HCOM in Athens, Ohio. The library offers a comprehensive array of both print and online resources for the informational and educational needs of Ohio University, healthcare providers, and community members.
- CHEAO supports the Columbus-Athens Albert Schweitzer Fellowship, a prestigious program that gives graduate and professional health students the chance to work on service projects that address the social factors that affect health in underserved communities.