

The Honorable Heidi Heitkamp
U.S. Senate

The Honorable John Hoeven
U.S. Senate

The Honorable Kevin Cramer
U.S. House of Representatives

March 11, 2015

Dear North Dakota Congressional Delegation:

On behalf of Eastern ND Area Health Education Center (AHEC), I am writing to express my support for the Community Health Center program and to highlight the critical role that Community Health Centers (CHCs) play in North Dakota. I am the Director of Eastern ND AHEC, and I know the CHCs in North Dakota contribute to the overall health and well-being of ND residents and serve as powerful economic engines and job creators.

It is my great pleasure on behalf of the Eastern ND AHEC Advisory to write this letter of support for the critical role the Community Health Centers (CHCs) play in North Dakota. The North Dakota AHEC Program that started in 2008 with the mission of supporting and advancing the recruitment, training and retention of a diverse health work force in underserved communities. For the past seven years, the ND AHEC has focused on prompting the collaboration of schools and community organizations to engage in a comprehensive strategy to help eliminate the shortage of health care professionals in underserved areas and correct the uneven distribution of health care providers in our state. We currently have established an office in Mayville and Hettinger to work on this mission.

Our programs include introducing students of all ages to a variety of health careers through school visits, career fairs, and hands-on activities. Although our program is not a part of the UND School of Medicine, we do work closely with UND to provide clinical experiences in rural settings for college students in health care programs of study. The ND AHEC also provides information on scholarships, loan repayment opportunities, continuing education programs, and supports community education programs.

The CHCs in ND serve as the health care home for nearly 32,000 patients at 16 clinic sites throughout the state, and provide primary care, dental, behavioral health, pharmacy, and support services. Of the health center patients, 55% are below 200% of the federal poverty level, 32% are uninsured, and 25% are covered by Medicaid. With 59% of SD health center patients living in rural areas, a local CHC is often the only option for access to high quality care.

CHCs are currently facing a significant loss of revenue due to the pending expiration of the Health Center fund at the end of FY2015. Under current law this will result in a 70% reduction in CHC grant funding in FY2016. This reduction would have devastating effects in our communities. The

Community HealthCare Association of the Dakotas (CHAD) represents the CHCs in ND and has recently completed an analysis of what the impact would be and I want to share that with you.

ND health centers had almost 109,000 patient encounters in 2013 which translates to \$46 million of annual cost savings to the health care system. Additionally, ND health centers contributed approximately \$2.3 million in state and local tax revenue, and \$3.0 million in federal tax revenue, which would also reduce dramatically. ND health centers employ nearly 280 full time positions and support an additional 400 jobs in other industries, which result in a total economic impact of \$38,757,604. If health centers are subject to a loss of their revenue due to the expiration of the Health Center fund, a significant number of jobs and services of the CHCs would be lost. This would have overwhelming repercussions to the health care system and the citizens of the state.

Of the \$4,546,025 in grants from the Bureau of Primary Health Care, a 70% cut to current funding would result in a **loss of \$3,182,218** to the health centers in ND. A reduction of this magnitude would lead to 20-25% of the patients served by health centers losing access to care; along with a reduction in services and employment of health center staff.

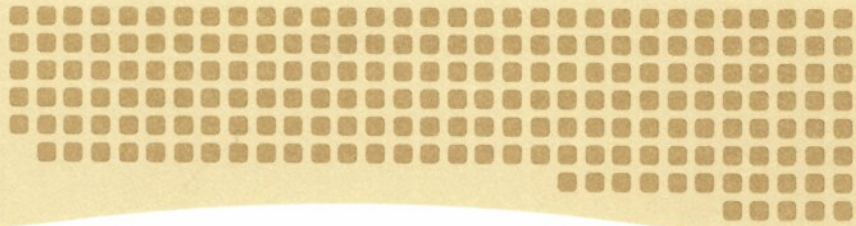
For 50 years, America's health centers have proven a sound investment – expanding access to high-quality primary and preventive care, improving health outcomes, and serving as economic engines in their communities. Studies have consistently demonstrated that Health Centers save the healthcare system approximately \$24 billion annually, largely by keeping patients out of costlier hospital and ER settings. Without access to primary care, many people, including the chronically ill, delay seeking health care until they are seriously ill and require inpatient hospitalization or care at an emergency room at a much higher cost.

I urge you to help sustain the ND health centers and avert the disastrous disruption of our health care system that will occur with this potential loss of federal support and ensure the stability and viability of access to health care in communities across North Dakota.

I am hopeful that North Dakota can count on your support for Community Health Centers. Thank you for your attention to this matter; your thoughtful consideration is greatly appreciated.

Sincerely,

Bill Krivarchka
Director
Eastern ND AHEC



December 19, 2014

Lynette Dickson, MS
Director ND AHEC
Center for Rural Health, UNDSMHS
501 N Columbia Rd, Stop 9037
Grand Forks, ND 58202

Dr. Bill E. Krivarchka
Eastern ND AHEC Director
Sanford Medical Center Mayville
42 6th Ave. SE
Mayville, ND 58257

Denise Andress
Western ND AHEC Director
109 S. Main St
P O Box 615
Hettinger, ND 58639

Dear Ms. Dickson, Dr. Krivarchka, and Ms. Andress,

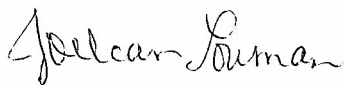
On behalf of the Medical Careers Instructors for the Bismarck Public Schools we are writing this letter to support the North Dakota Area Health Education Center (ND AHEC) Program, the Eastern and Western North Dakota Area Health Education Centers (Eastern ND AHEC, Western ND AHEC). The ND AHEC/Eastern/Western ND AHEC focuses on providing support across the health care workforce pipeline to address health care workforce shortages through distribution, diversity, supply and quality health care professionals.

NDAHEC has been a wonderful support to our program over the past years. They have assisted with many hands on days to expose students to a variety of health careers. Activities have included experiential activities in dental health, first aid and CPR, surgical skills and the digestive system. NDAHEC has also helped to bring HOSA – future health professionals to the state. This is an extremely beneficial organization for students interested in a career in medicine. This organization helps to build leadership skills with our students as well as provide them with an exposure to a variety of health careers. There is currently a shortage of healthcare workers in ND. NDAHEC through educational programming and HOSA is working to address that issue. NDAHEC is instrumental in helping to build a future workforce in healthcare.

In closing, we would like to say that the Medical Careers Instructors for the Bismarck Public Schools are pleased to continue a relationship that is beneficial to us and the North Dakota Area Health Education Program and the Eastern/Western North Dakota Area Health Education Centers. We believe this support is worthy and meets the needs of future health care students and professional providers, rural communities and quality health for North Dakota.

Thank you.

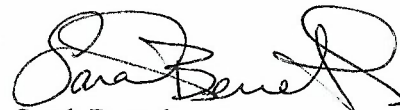
Best regards,



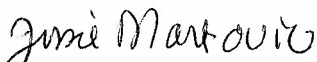
Joelean Lowman
Medical Related Careers Instructor
Bismarck Career Academy/
Missouri River Educational Consortium



Jessica Mehlhoff
Medical Related Careers Instructor
Bismarck Career Academy



Sarah Berreth
Medical Related Careers Instructor
Bismarck Career Academy



Jessie Markovic
Medical Related Careers Instructor
Century High School



Heather Frey
Medical Related Careers Instructor
Bismarck High Schools



Lorie McCarthy
Medical Related Careers Instructor
Bismarck Career Academy/Legacy High School



Blaine Steiner
Medical Related Careers Instructor
Bismarck Career Academy/Legacy High School

LANGDON AREA HIGH/MIDDLE SCHOOL
“HOME OF THE CARDINALS”

A+ FOR EXCELLENCE

PRINCIPAL: DARYL TIMIAN

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E-mail: daryl.timian@sendit.nodak.edu

December 18, 2014

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Director ND AHEC
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Dr. Bill E. Krivarchka
Eastern ND AHEC Director
Sanford Medical Center Mayville
42 6th Ave. SE
Mayville, ND 58257

Denise Andress, RN
Western ND AHEC Director
109 So. Main Street
PO Box 615
Hettinger, ND 58639

Dear Ms. Dickson, Dr. Krivarchka and Ms. Andress:

On behalf of Langdon Area High School, we are writing this letter to support the North Dakota Area Health Education Center (ND AHEC) Program and the Eastern and Western North Dakota Area Health Education Centers (Eastern ND AHEC, Western ND AHEC). The ND AHEC/Eastern/Western ND AHEC focuses on providing support across the health care workforce pipeline to address health care workforce shortages through distribution, diversity, supply and quality health care professionals.

We have worked closely with the North Dakota Area Health Education Center (ND AHEC) for several years. AHEC has offered educational opportunities for our students in collaboration with our health care facilities and medical professionals to expand their understanding of the many health careers available. Examples would be the HOPE grant, health careers information and statistics (including powerpoints), and expansion of HOSA (Health Occupations Students of America) into North Dakota.

In closing, we would like to say that Langdon Area High School is pleased to continue a relationship that is beneficial to us and the North Dakota Area Health Education Program and the Eastern North Dakota Area Health Education Centers. We believe this support is worthy and meets the needs of future health care students and professional providers, rural communities and quality health for North Dakota. Thank you.

Best regards,

Daryl Timian
Principal
Carla Symons, RN
Instructor—Health Careers



January 20, 2015

Lynette Dickson, MS
Director ND AHEC
Center for Rural Health, UNDSMHS
501 N Columbia Rd, Stop 9037
Grand Forks, ND 58202

Dr. Bill E. Krivarchka
Eastern ND AHEC Director
Sanford Medical Center Mayville
42 6th Ave. SE
Mayville, ND 58257

Denise Andress
Western ND AHEC Director
109 S Main St
PO Box 615
Hettinger, ND 58639

Dear Ms. Dickson, Dr. Krivarchka, and Ms. Andress,

I am writing this letter to support the North Dakota Area Health Education Center (ND AHEC) Program, the Eastern and Western North Dakota Area Health Education Centers (Eastern ND AHEC, Western ND AHEC). The ND AHEC focuses on providing support across the health care workforce pipeline to address health care workforce shortages through distribution, diversity, supply and quality health care professionals.

When I became interested in healthcare, I started a HOSA Future Health Professionals chapter in my local town, Hettinger. I am currently the Local President and the State Treasurer. As the president, I do many things such as run meetings, bring new ideas for events and fundraisers to the table, and make sure everything we need done gets accomplished. I have a great team of people helping me and I hope to give HOSA enough momentum to keep it going long after I graduate.

HOSA provides members with many opportunities to make a difference. HOSA is the only program that offers healthcare activities to students. HOSA not only provides opportunities and experiences, but also, HOSA helps students achieve scholarships to help them through their futures. HOSA is a passion for students around the world and we hope we can keep expanding to more and more.

In closing, I would like to say that ND AHEC is a beneficial program in the healthcare field for all of North Dakota. I believe this support is worthy and meets the needs of future health care students and professional providers, rural communities and quality health for North Dakota. Thank you.

Best regards,

Cassandra Andress, State Treasurer, ND HOSA

Bismarck Office

1003 East Interstate Avenue, Ste 1
Bismarck, ND 58503

Phone: (701) 221-9824

**CHAD**

Community HealthCare
Association of the Dakotas

Sioux Falls Office

1400 West 22nd Street
Sioux Falls, SD 57105

Phone: (605) 357-1515

Lynette Dickson, MS
Director ND AHEC
Center for Rural Health, UNDSMHS
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Grand Forks, ND 58202

Dr. Bill E. Krivarchka
Eastern ND AHEC Director
Sanford Medical Center Mayville
42 6th Ave. SE
Mayville, ND 58257

Denise Andress
Western ND AHEC Director
109 S Main St
PO Box 615
Hettinger, ND 58639

Dear Ms. Dickson, Dr. Krivarchka, and Ms. Andress,

On behalf of the Community HealthCare Association of the Dakotas (CHAD), we are writing this letter to support the North Dakota Area Health Education Center (ND AHEC) Program, the Eastern and Western North Dakota Area Health Education Centers (Eastern ND AHEC, Western ND AHEC). The ND AHEC/Eastern/Western ND AHEC focuses on providing support across the health care workforce pipeline to address health care workforce shortages through distribution, diversity, supply and quality health care professionals.

CHAD has a long standing history of collaboration with ND AHEC in providing valuable educational opportunities for our health center providers and staff. We have utilized many programs in North Dakota health centers that were developed by ND AHEC to assist with training and education needs. Additionally, ND AHEC provides great support to CHAD in our efforts to assist health centers in recruitment and retention of qualified health care professionals, especially in areas where we experience chronic shortages of such staff. We value the relationship we have built with ND AHEC and greatly appreciate the work done by their highly skilled and dedicated staff.

In closing, we would like to say that CHAD is pleased to continue a relationship that is beneficial to us and the North Dakota Area Health Education Program and the Eastern/Western North Dakota Area Health Education Centers. We believe this support is worthy and meets the needs of future health care students and professional providers, rural communities and quality health for North Dakota. Thank you.

Best regards,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Linda M. Ross". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name "Linda" being more prominent.

Linda Ross, MBA
Chief Executive Officer

Mission: Enhance Access to Quality Primary Care Through Services to Our Members

www.communityhealthcare.net



File
AHEC

January 15, 2015

Lynette Dickson, MS
Director ND AHEC
Center for Rural Health, UNDSMHS
501 N Columbia Rd, Stop 9037
Grand Forks, ND 58202


Dear Ms. Dickson,

This letter puts forth the support of the McKenzie County Healthcare Systems, Inc. for the North Dakota Area Health Education Center (ND AHEC) Program. The focus of the ND AHEC is to meet a gap which currently exists in the state of North Dakota that being to bring forth programs to address health care workforce shortages. The focus takes the form of both recruitment of healthcare professionals and program to encourage North Dakota youth to enter into a healthcare profession.

In the near future an individual will actually be located in McKenzie County North Dakota to expand the footprint of services offered in Western North Dakota. Western North Dakota is plagued, given the oil related employment opportunities, with an inability to hire healthcare support and licensed personnel. The presence of an AHEC employee in our area is welcomed.

The McKenzie County Healthcare Systems, Inc. urges continued legislative support for the North Dakota Area Health Education Center program. This support is worthy given the aforementioned focus on the recruitment of future health care students and professional providers for rural communities in North Dakota.

Best regards,



Daniel R. Kelly, CEO

✓ CC: Denise Andress, Western ND AHEC Director

RED RIVER HIGH SCHOOL

Mr. Kristopher G. Arason, Principal
Dr. Kelly D. Peters, Associate Principal
Mr. Christopher C. Douthit, Associate Principal
Mr. Nathan R. Olson, Activities Director

HOME OF THE ROUGHRIDERS

2211 17th Avenue South
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(701) 746-2400
Fax (701) 746-2406



January 14th, 2014

Lynette Dickson, MS
Director ND AHEC
Director

Center for Rural Health, UNDSMHS
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Grand Forks, ND 58202

Dr. Bill E. Krivarchka
Eastern ND AHEC Director

Sanford Medical Center Mayville
42 6th Ave. SE
Mayville, ND 58257

Denise Address
Western ND AHEC

109 S Main St
PO Box 615
Hettinger, ND 58639

Dear Ms. Dickson, Dr. Krivarchka, and Ms. Address,

On behalf of Red River High School Medical Careers Program and HOSA Organization, we are writing this letter to support the North Dakota Area Health Education Center (ND AHEC) Program, the Eastern and Western North Dakota Area Health Education Centers (Eastern ND AHEC, Western ND AHEC). The ND AHEC/Eastern/Western ND AHEC focuses on providing support across the health care workforce pipeline to address health care workforce shortages through distribution, diversity, supply and quality health care professionals.

NDAHEC has been instrumental in the initial start up process and support of the student lead organization Health Occupation Students of America (HOSA). Without NDAHEC we would not have HOSA chapters in the state of ND. These organizations focus on student leadership and prepare them to enter the healthcare field. There is a national shortage of healthcare workers and it is imperative that we support organizations that assist student learning and guide them along the health career pathway. NDAHEC has been very supportive of the Medical Related Careers Programs around the state. ADAHEC has also gives students around the state the opportunity to experience different careers in healthcare through hands on activities like CPR and surgical skills.

In closing, we would like to say that RRHS Medical Careers Program is pleased to continue a relationship that is beneficial to us and the North Dakota Area Health Education Program and the Eastern/Western North Dakota Area Health Education Centers. We believe this support is worthy and meets the needs of future health care students and professional providers, rural communities and quality health for North Dakota. Thank you.

Best regards,

Dani Rowekamp, BSN
Medical Careers/CNA Instructor
Red River High School

Department of Nursing

*College of Pharmacy, Nursing, and Allied Sciences
NDSU Dept. 2670*

*136 Sudro Hall, P.O. Box 6050
Fargo, ND 58108-6050*

March 17, 2015

Lynette Dickson, MS
Director ND AHEC
Center for Rural Health, UNDSMHS
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Sanford Medical Center Mayville
42 6th Ave. SE
Mayville, ND 58257

Denise Address
Western ND AHEC Dir.
109 S Main St
PO Box 615
Hettinger, ND 58639

Dear Ms. Dickson, Dr. Krivarchka, and Ms. Address:

On behalf of the NDSU Nursing Department we are writing this letter to support the North Dakota Area Health Education Center (ND AHEC) Program, the Eastern and Western North Dakota Area Health Education Centers (Eastern ND AHEC, Western ND AHEC). The ND AHEC/Eastern/Western ND AHEC focuses on providing support across the health care workforce pipeline to address health care workforce shortages through distribution, diversity, supply and quality health care professionals.

AHEC has provided support for our family nurse practitioner students in rural clinics. These student opportunities would not be possible without the support we have received from AHEC. Several students, after their participation in these rural sites, have sought out rural sites for employment upon graduation from the NDSU DNP/FNP program, subsequently improving access to primary health care in the rural areas of North Dakota.

In closing, we would like to say that the NDSU Doctor of Nursing practice/Family Nurse Practitioner Program is pleased to continue a relationship that is beneficial to us and the North Dakota Area Health Education Program and the Eastern/Western North Dakota Area Health Education Centers. We believe this support is worthy and meets the needs of future health care students and professional providers, rural communities and quality health for North Dakota. Thank you.

Best regards,

Dean Gross Ph.D. FNP
DNP/FNP Program Director
Assistant Professor / Nursing Department
NORTH DAKOTA STATE UNIVERSITY
136 Sudro Hall 222F
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School of Medicine & Health Sciences

January 15, 2015

Lynette Dickson, MS
Director ND AHEC
Center for Rural Health, UNDSMHS
501 N Columbia Rd, Stop 9037
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Dr. Bill E. Krivarchka
Eastern ND AHEC Director
Sanford Medical Center Mayville
42 6th Ave. SE
Mayville, ND 58257

Denise Address
Western ND AHEC Director
109 S Main St
PO Box 615
Hettinger, ND 58639

Dear Ms. Dickson, Dr. Krivarchka, and Ms. Address,

On behalf of the University of North Dakota School of Medicine and Health Sciences, I am writing this letter to support the North Dakota Area Health Education Center (ND AHEC) Program, the Eastern and Western North Dakota Area Health Education Centers (Eastern ND AHEC, Western ND AHEC). The ND AHEC/Eastern/Western ND AHEC focuses on providing support across the health care workforce pipeline to address health care workforce shortages through distribution, diversity, supply and quality health care professionals.

I have worked with them extensively over the last 2 years on interprofessional health science education projects in rural areas. These projects seek to have students from different health science programs (i.e., medicine, pharmacy, nursing, PT, OT, etc) interact with each other in more directed ways to improve team-based health care. These types of activities are known to improve quality and promote a culture of safety in prevention strategies and treatment of a variety of different health care needs. We hope this also gives students opportunities to understand that this can be done in rural areas effectively and that they all support each other in those environments.

In closing, we would like to say that the University of North Dakota School of Medicine and Health Sciences is pleased to continue a relationship that is beneficial to us and the North Dakota Area Health Education Program and the Eastern/Western North Dakota Area Health Education Centers. We believe this support is worthy and meets the needs of future health care students and professional providers, rural communities and quality health for North Dakota. Thank you.

Best regards,



Eric L. Johnson, M.D.

Associate Professor
Department of Family and Community Medicine
UNDSMHS
501 N. Columbia Road

Grand Forks, ND 58201

Director Interprofessional Education
UNDSMHS

Medical Director
Physician Assistant Program
UNDSMHS

Assistant Medical Director
Altru Diabetes Center
FMC-Altru Health System

Assistant Medical Director
Valley Memorial Homes

President
Tobacco Free North Dakota

(701) 795-2000 Clinic
(701) 777-3811 UND



North Dakota Hospital Association

Vision

The North Dakota Hospital Association will take an active leadership role in major Healthcare issues.

Mission

The North Dakota Hospital Association exists to advance the health status of persons served by the membership.

December 22, 2014

Lynette Dickson, MS
Director ND AHEC
Center for Rural Health, UNDSMHS
501 N Columbia Rd, Stop 9037
Grand Forks, ND 58202

Dr. Bill E. Krivarchka
Eastern ND AHEC Director
Sanford Medical Center Mayville
42 6th Ave. SE
Mayville, ND 58257

Denise Andress
Western ND AHEC Director
109 S Main St
PO Box 615
Hettinger, ND 58639

Dear Ms. Dickson, Dr. Krivarchka, and Ms. Andress,

On behalf of the North Dakota Hospital Association (NDHA) I am writing this letter in support of the North Dakota Area Health Education Center (ND AHEC) Program. This includes the Eastern and Western North Dakota Area Health Education Centers (Eastern ND AHEC, Western ND AHEC).

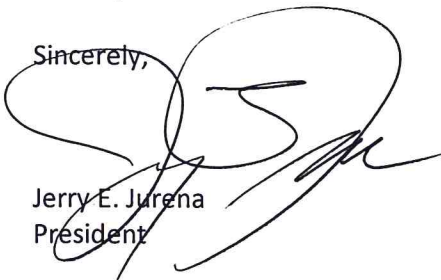
I appreciate the attention the ND AHEC has placed on providing support across the state of North Dakota in addressing the health care workforce shortage. I hear daily from my membership on the critical need for health care workers. The shortages are in all areas of the delivery of healthcare; from support staff non-licensed through licensed professional health care providers.

We will continue to work with you and to be supportive of your efforts in the education/training of individuals with a desired to be part of the health care delivery model. We cannot solve this crisis without the help of organizations like yours.

To reiterate; the North Dakota Hospital Association is pleased to be associated with AHEC and look forward to continuing our work together to solve this crisis. Sharing of information and education are the solutions to this problem and we both need to be in this together.

Thank you.

Sincerely,



Jerry E. Jurena
President

December 15, 2014

Lynette Dickson, MS
Director ND AHEC
Center for Rural Health, UNDSMHS
501 N Columbia Rd, Stop 9037
Grand Forks, ND 58202

Dr. Bill E. Krivarchka
Eastern ND AHEC Director
Sanford Medical Center Mayville
42 6th Ave. SE
Mayville, ND 58257

Denise Andress
Western ND AHEC Director
109 S Main St
PO Box 615
Hettinger, ND 58639

Dear Ms. Dickson, Dr. Krivarchka, and Ms. Andress,

On behalf of the students who are involved in HOSA- Future Health Professional. I am writing this letter for the support of the North Dakota Area Health Education Center (ND AHEC) Program. The ND AHEC focuses on providing support across the health care workforce pipeline to address health care workforce shortages through distribution, diversity, supply and quality health care professionals.

ND AHEC has been a wonderful support to the HOSA student organization over the past three years. HOSA has been a wonderful way to expose students to different health related careers while also serving their community. We are able to learn, study, and compete in different competitions that all relate to health careers. HOSA is the only student organization that is solely for health related careers. In just three years we have grown from 15 students to now over 170 which I believe show how much of an impact that this organization is having with students from all across the state. With continued support we would be able to continue expanding to more small towns and also reach more students interested in pursuing a health career. Through a fall leadership conference students are also able to gain new leadership experience, and also participate in different activities that expose a student to different skills used such as starting an IV, or CPR training.

In closing, we would like to say that HOSA- Future Health Professionals are pleased to continue to grow and reach more students through North Dakota Area Health Education Program. We believe this support is worthy and meets the needs of future health care students and professional providers, rural communities and quality health for North Dakota. Thank you.

Best regards,



Jessica Stair
ND HOSA State President
Bismarck Public School



Stands for Jobs

NORTH DAKOTA AHEC

501 N. Columbia Road, Stop 9037 Grand Forks, ND 58202-9037 • 701.777.3848

www.ndahec.org

January 2, 2015

Lynette Dickson, MS, Director ND AHEC
Dr. Bill E. Krivarchka, Eastern ND AHEC Director
Denise Andress, Western ND AHEC Director

Dear Ms. Dickson, Dr. Krivarchka, and Ms. Andress,

It is my great pleasure on behalf of the ND AHEC Advisory board to write this letter of support for the North Dakota Area Health Education Center (AHEC) Program. This is a national program that started in 1997 with the mission of supporting and advancing the recruitment, training and retention of a diverse health work force in underserved communities. For the past seven years, the ND AHEC has focused on prompting the collaboration of schools and community organizations to engage in a comprehensive strategy to help eliminate the shortage of health care professionals in underserved areas and correct the uneven distribution of health care providers in our state. We currently have established an office in Mayville and Hettinger to work on this mission.

Our programs include introducing students of all ages to a variety of health careers through school visits, career fairs, and hands-on activities. Although our program is not a part of the UND School of Medicine, we do work closely with UND to provide clinical experiences in rural settings for college students in health care programs of study. The ND AHEC also provides information on scholarships, loan repayment opportunities, continuing education programs, and supports community education programs.

In closing, I would like to say that the AHEC Advisory board is pleased to continue to work with the North Dakota Area Health Education Programs to provide the health care professionals that our state needs to meet the demands of our citizens in both the rural and urban areas of our state. The Advisory Board believes this support is worthy and meets the needs of future health care students and professional providers, rural communities and quality health care for North Dakota. Thank you.

Sincerely,

JoNell A. Bakke

JoNell A. Bakke, Chair
ND AHEC Advisory Board

Office of the Dean
SMHS, Room 1930
501 N Columbia Road Stop 9037
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January 16, 2015

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Denise Andress
Western ND AHEC Director
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Hettinger, ND 58639

Dear Ms. Dickson, Dr. Krivarchka, and Ms. Andress,

On behalf of the University of North Dakota School of Medicine and Health Sciences, I am writing to support the North Dakota Area Health Education Center (ND AHEC) Program administered through the Eastern and Western North Dakota Area Health Education Centers (Eastern ND AHEC, Western ND AHEC). The ND AHEC/Eastern/Western ND AHEC focuses on providing support across the health care workforce pipeline to address health care workforce shortages through distribution, diversity, supply and quality health care professionals. The AHECs work closely and in a coordinated fashion with the School and its Center for Rural Health in addressing healthcare workforce issues for the state of North Dakota.

The School and its Center for Rural Health are pleased to continue this relationship that is beneficial to us and the North Dakota Area Health Education Program and the Eastern/Western North Dakota Area Health Education Centers. We believe this partnership is worthy and meets the needs of future health care students and professional providers, rural communities and quality health for North Dakota. Thank you.

Sincerely yours,



Joshua Wynne, M.D., M.B.A., M.P.H.
Vice President for Health Affairs
Dean



January 12, 2015

Lynette Dickson, MS
Director ND AHEC
Center for Rural Health, UNDSMHS
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Sanford Medical Center Mayville
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Hettinger, ND 58639

Dear Ms. Dickson, Dr. Krivarchka, and Ms. Andress,

On behalf of CHI Carrington Health-Carrington ND, we are writing this letter to support the North Dakota Area Health Education Center (ND AHEC) Program, the Eastern and Western North Dakota Area Health Education Centers (Eastern ND AHEC, Western ND AHEC). The ND AHEC/Eastern/Western ND AHEC focuses on providing support across the health care workforce pipeline to address health care workforce shortages through distribution, diversity, supply and quality health care professionals.

ND AHEC is beneficial to CHI Carrington in our rural setting by collaborating organizations to help eliminate shortage of health care professionals in rural areas. ND AHEC works to recruit and sustain health professionals in North Dakota receiving the support from CHI Carrington Health. Rural training and continuing education opportunities that ND AHEC provides is beneficial to all rural communities in North Dakota.

In closing, we would like to say that CHI Carrington Health – Carrington ND is pleased to continue a relationship that is beneficial to us and the North Dakota Area Health Education Program and the Eastern/Western North Dakota Area Health Education Centers. We believe this support is worthy and meets the needs of future health care students and professional providers, rural communities and quality health for North Dakota. Thank you.

Best regards,

Mariann Doeling
President

MKD:bp



Office of the President

December 19, 2014

Lynette Dickson, MS
Director ND AHEC
Center for Rural Health, UNDSMHS
501 N Columbia Rd, Stop 9037
Grand Forks, ND 58202

Dr. Bill E. Krivarchka
Eastern ND AHEC Director
Sanford Medical Center Mayville
42 6th Ave. SE
Mayville, ND 58257

Denise Andress
Western ND AHEC Director
109 So. Main St
PO Box 615
Hettinger, ND 58639

Dear Ms. Dickson, Dr. Krivarchka, and Ms. Andress,

On behalf of Mayville State University, we are writing this letter to support the North Dakota Area Health Education Center (ND AHEC) Program, the Eastern and Western North Dakota Area Health Education Centers (Eastern ND AHEC, Western ND AHEC). The ND AHEC/Eastern/Western ND AHEC focuses on providing support across the health care workforce pipeline to address health care workforce shortages through distribution, diversity, supply and quality health care professionals.

Over the past few years (2010-2014), Mayville State University (MaSU) has been a strong supporter and collaborator with the ND AHEC/E AHEC/W AHEC by agreeing to be the Recipient to the Contractor (University of North Dakota) to assist the performance of the Eastern and Western ND AHEC scope of work. In addition Mayville State University has supported ND AHEC through partnering with K-12 health career fairs, establishment of the Dakota Nursing Program on the Mayville State University campus, establishing the MaSU RN to BSN program in the fall 2014, and collaboration with MaSU STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering, Math) curriculum. Mayville State University also supports ND AHEC by being an Eastern AHEC, Western AHEC and ND AHEC Advisory Board member.

In closing, we would like to say that Mayville State University is pleased to continue a relationship that is beneficial to us and the North Dakota Area Health Education Program and the Eastern/Western North Dakota Area Health Education Centers. We believe this support is worthy and meets the needs of future health care students and professional providers, rural communities and quality health for North Dakota. Thank you.

Best regards,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, reading 'Gary Hagen'.

Dr. Gary Hagen, President
Mayville State University

A handwritten signature in cursive script, reading 'Keith Stenebjerg'.

Dr. Keith Stenebjerg, VP for Academic Affairs
Mayville State University

University of Minnesota School of Dentistry

Division of Outreach

December 23, 2014

Lynette Dickson, MS
Director ND AHEC
Center for Rural Health, UNDSMHS
501 N Columbia Rd, Stop 9037
Grand Forks, ND 58202

Dr. Bill E. Krivarchka
Eastern ND AHEC Director
Sanford Medical Center Mayville
42 6th Ave. SE
Mayville, ND 58257

Denise Andress
Western ND AHEC Director
109 S Main St
PO Box 615
Hettinger, ND 58639

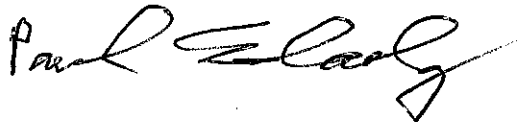
Dear Ms. Dickson, Dr. Krivarchka, and Ms. Andress,

On behalf of the Division of Outreach for the University Of Minnesota School Of Dentistry, we are writing this letter to support the North Dakota Area Health Education Center (ND AHEC) Program, the Eastern North Dakota Area Health Education Centers. The ND AHEC/Eastern/Western ND AHEC focuses on providing support across the health care workforce pipeline to address health care workforce shortages through distribution, diversity, supply and quality health care professionals.

The Division of Outreach at the University Of Minnesota School Of Dentistry is committed to providing clinical Outreach rotation opportunities for our students to underserved patients. Our students value the clinical opportunities that Outreach clinics provide and understand the importance of treating underserved populations throughout the region. We collaborated with the Minnesota AHEC in the past and understand how the AHEC mission overlaps with the service mission at our School of Dentistry.

In closing, we would like to say that the University Of Minnesota School Of Dentistry Division of Outreach is looking forward to exploring a relationship that is beneficial to both the North Dakota Area Health Education Program and our School. We believe that exploring the possibility of collaboration between our School and the Eastern AHEC association provides the possibility of increased access to dental care in North Dakota and valuable clinical education for our students. Thank you.

Best regards,



Paul D. Schulz
Director of the Division of Outreach
University of Minnesota School of Dentistry
515 Delaware Street SE, Moos 9-426
Minneapolis Minnesota, 55455
612-624-5331



January 14, 2015

Lynette Dickson, MS
Director ND AHEC
Center for Rural Health, UNDSMHS
501 N Columbia Rd, Stop 9037
Grand Forks, ND 58202

Dr. Bill E. Krivarchka
Eastern ND AHEC Director
Sanford Medical Center Mayville
42 6th Ave. SE
Mayville, ND 58257

Denise Address
Western ND AHEC Director
109 S Main St
PO Box 615
Hettinger, ND 58639

Dear Ms. Dickson, Dr. Krivarchka, and Ms. Address,

On behalf of the North Dakota Center for Nursing, I am writing this letter to support the North Dakota Area Health Education Center (ND AHEC) Program, the Eastern and Western North Dakota Area Health Education Centers (Eastern ND AHEC, Western ND AHEC). The ND AHEC/Eastern/Western ND AHEC focuses on providing support across the health care workforce pipeline to address health care workforce shortages through distribution, diversity, supply and quality health care professionals.

The North Dakota Center for Nursing proudly serves on the ND AHEC Program Office Advisory Board and the ND AHEC has membership on the ND Center for Nursing Board of Directors. Several of our initiatives are complementary and we are able to effectively leverage resources in order to ensure a quality health care workforce in North Dakota.

In closing, I would like to say that the North Dakota Center for Nursing is pleased to continue a relationship that is beneficial to us and the North Dakota Area Health Education Program and the Eastern/Western North Dakota Area Health Education Centers. The North Dakota Center for Nursing believes this support is worthy and meets the needs of future health care students and professional providers, rural communities and quality health for North Dakota. Thank you.

Best regards,

Patricia Moulton, PhD
Executive Director
North Dakota Center for Nursing
417 Main Avenue #402
Fargo, ND 58103



Stands for Jobs
NATIONAL AHEC ORGANIZATION

Headquarters Office
7044 S. 13th Street
Oak Creek, WI 53154
Tel: (414) 908-4953
(888) 412-7424
Fax: (414) 768-8001
www.nationalahec.org
info@nationalahec.org

The National AHEC Organization supports and advances the AHEC Network to improve health by leading the nation in the recruitment, training and retention of a diverse health workforce for underserved communities.

December 18, 2014

Lynette Dickson, MS
Director ND AHEC
Center for Rural Health, UNDSMHS
501 N Columbia Rd, Stop 9037
Grand Forks, ND 58202

Dr. Bill E. Krivarchka
Eastern ND AHEC Director
Sanford Medical Center Mayville
42 6th Ave. SE
Mayville, ND 58257

Denise Andress
Western ND AHEC Director
109 S Main St
PO Box 615
Hettinger, ND 58639

Dear Ms. Dickson, Dr. Krivarchka, and Ms. Andress,

On behalf of the National AHEC Organization (NAO), I am writing this letter to support the North Dakota Area Health Education Center (ND AHEC) Program, the Eastern and Western North Dakota Area Health Education Centers (Eastern ND AHEC, Western ND AHEC). The ND AHEC/Eastern/Western ND AHEC focuses on providing support across the health care workforce pipeline to address health care workforce shortages through distribution, diversity, supply and quality health care professionals.

NAO is the national member association that supports and advances the AHEC Network to improve health by leading the nation in the recruitment, training and retention of a diverse health workforce for underserved communities, which we do by working closely with our membership of 52 medical schools AHECs, 3 nursing school AHECs and over 250 community-based AHECs throughout the country in a great variety of ways.

Our collective vision is that the AHEC network become the national leader in developing a highly competent and diverse health care workforce for underserved populations. The North Dakota AHEC is a vital component of our national efforts in working to ensure access to quality health care, particularly primary and preventive care, by improving the supply and distribution of healthcare professionals through community/academic educational partnerships.

NAO is pleased to continue a relationship that is beneficial to both our organization and the North Dakota Area Health Education Program and the Eastern/Western North Dakota Area Health Education Centers. I believe this support is worthy and meets the needs of future health care students and professional providers, rural communities and quality health for North Dakota.

Best regards,

Robert M. Trachtenberg, MS
Chief Executive Officer

December 23, 2014

Lynette Dickson, MS
Director ND AHEC
Center for Rural Health, UNDSMHS
501 N Columbia Rd, Stop 9037
Grand Forks, ND 58202

Dr. Bill E. Krivarchka
Eastern ND AHEC Director
Sanford Medical Center Mayville
42 6th Ave. SE
Mayville, ND 58257

Denise Andress
Western ND AHEC Director
109 S Main St
PO Box 615
Hettinger, ND 58639

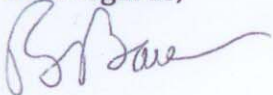
Dear Ms. Dickson, Dr. Krivarchka, and Ms. Andress,

On behalf of Sanford Mayville, we are writing this letter to support the North Dakota Area Health Education Center (ND AHEC) Program, the Eastern and Western North Dakota Area Health Education Centers (Eastern ND AHEC, Western ND AHEC). The ND AHEC/Eastern/Western ND AHEC focuses on providing support across the health care workforce pipeline to address health care workforce shortages through distribution, diversity, supply and quality health care professionals.

Being rural, we find that sending staff distances for training is almost impossible as it takes staff away from our facility. With the EAHEC mobile training, unit available, we were able to train some of our staff in our own facility. What a positive way to meet needs in rural North Dakota.

In closing, we would like to say that Sanford Mayville is pleased to continue a relationship that is beneficial to us and the North Dakota Area Health Education Program and the Eastern/Western North Dakota Area Health Education Centers. We believe this support is worthy and meets the needs of future health care students and professional providers, rural communities and quality health for North Dakota. Thank you.

Best regards,



Roger Baier
Chief Executive Officer

RB:kjm



Stands for Jobs

EASTERN NORTH DAKOTA AHEC

42 6th Avenue SE Mayville 58257 • 701-788-4477

eastern.ndahec.org

January 15, 2015

Lynette Dickson, MS
Director ND AHEC
Center for Rural Health, UNDSMHS
501 N Columbia Rd, Stop 9037
Grand Forks, ND 58202

Dr. Bill E. Krivarchka
Eastern ND AHEC Director
Sanford Medical Center Mayville
42 6th Ave SE
Mayville, ND 58257

Denise Andress
Western ND AHEC Director
103 S Main St
PO Box 615
Hettinger, ND 58639

Dear Ms. Dickson, Dr. Krivarchka, and Ms. Andress

As Chairman of Eastern ND AHEC Advisory Board, I am writing this letter to support the North Dakota Area Health Education Center (ND AHEC) and the Eastern North Dakota Area Health Education Center (Eastern ND AHEC). The ND AHEC/Eastern ND AHEC focuses on providing support across the health care workforce pipeline to address health care workforce shortages through distribution, diversity, supply and quality health care professionals.

We have found that support afforded us through Eastern ND AHEC, such as the mobile training and support of rural EMS to our Eastern counties, shows how we are meeting some of the goals of Eastern ND AHEC in providing support for quality health care in rural areas.

In closing, I would like to say that Eastern ND AHEC Advisory Board is pleased to continue a relationship that is beneficial to us and the North Dakota Area Health Education Center and the Eastern North Dakota Area Health Education Center. We believe this support is worthy and meets the needs of future health care students and professional providers, rural communities and quality health for North Dakota. Thank you.

Best regards,

Roger Baier
Chairman of Eastern ND AHEC Advisory Board
On behalf of Eastern ND AHEC Advisory Board

January 19, 2015

Lynette Dickson, Ms
Director ND AHEC
Center for Rural Health, UNDSMHS
501 N Columbia Rd, Stop 9037
Grand Forks, ND 58202

Dr. Bill E. Krivarchka
Eastern ND AHEC Director
Sanford Medical Center Mayville
42- 6th Ave. SE
Mayville, ND 58257

Denise Andress
Western ND AHEC Director
109 S Main St
PO Box 615
Hettinger, ND 58639

Dear Ms. Dickson, Dr. Krivarchka, and Ms. Andress,

On behalf of North Dakota Long Term Care Association, we are writing this letter to support the North Dakota Area Health Education Center, (ND AHEC) Program, the Eastern and Western North Dakota Area Health Education Centers (Eastern ND AHEC, Western ND AHEC.) The ND AHEC/Eastern/Western ND AHEC focuses on providing support across the health care workforce pipeline to address health care workforce shortages through distribution, diversity, supply and quality health care professionals.

Sufficient staffing continues to be the number one concern facing Long Term Care facilities. Seventy percent of nursing facilities used contract nursing agencies in 2014. Over 15 Million was spent on contract nursing in 2014, an increase of over 22%. Facilities are stopping admission because of staffing. The future looks even more challenging with one-third of the work force currently over 50 years of age.

In closing, we would like to say that North Dakota Long Term Care Association is pleased to continue a relationship that is beneficial to us and the North Dakota Area Health Education Program and the Eastern/Western North Dakota Area Health Education centers. We believe this support is worthy and meet the need of future health care students and professional providers, rural communities and quality health for North Dakota. Thank you.

Best regards,



Shelly Peterson, President
North Dakota Long Term Care Association



RBHN Mission: To improve access to behavioral healthcare and eliminate behavioral health disparities in rural and tribal communities.

**RBHN GOVERNANCE
COMMITTEE**

*Coal Country Community
Health Centers*

Essentia Health

*Mental Health America
of North Dakota*

MHA Nation

*North Dakota Area Health
Education Center*

*North Dakota Federation
of Families for Children's
Mental Health*

*Sakakawea Medical
Center*

January 14, 2015

Lynette Dickson, MS
Director ND AHEC
Director Center for Rural Health
UNDSMHS
501 N Columbia Rd, Stop 9037
Grand Forks, ND 58202

Dr. Bill E. Krivarchka
Eastern ND AHEC Director
Sanford Medical Center
42 6th Ave. S
Mayville, ND 58257

Denise Andress
Western ND AHEC
Director
PO Box 615
Hettinger, ND
58639

Dear Ms. Dickson, Dr. Krivarchka and Ms. Andress,

The ND Rural Behavioral Health Network (ND RBHN) supports the North Dakota Area Health Education Center (ND AHEC) Program, the Eastern and Western North Dakota Area Health Education Centers (Eastern ND AHEC) and (Western ND AHEC). The ND AHEC/Eastern/Western AHEC focuses on providing support across the health care workforce pipeline to address health care workforce shortages through distribution, diversity, supply and quality health care professionals.

ND AHEC is an original member of the ND RBHN. Our mission is to improve access to behavioral healthcare and eliminate health disparities in rural and tribal communities. The ND RBHN also includes the following agencies: Coal Country Community Health Centers; Essentia Health; Mandan Hidatsa Arikara Nation; ND Federation of Families for Children's Mental Health; Mental Health America of ND and Sakakawea Medical Center.

In closing, we would like to say that ND RBHN is pleased to continue a relationship that is beneficial to ND RBHN and the North Dakota Area Health Education Program and the Eastern/Western North Dakota Area Health Education Centers and, most important, the people we both serve. We believe the ND AHEC Centers are worthy for the support of ND RBHN since it meets the needs of future health care students, professional providers, rural and tribal communities and quality health care for North Dakota.

Sincerely,

Susan Rae Helgeland, MS
ND RBHN Project Director

www.ndrbhn.org



CITY-COUNTY HEALTH DISTRICT

PUBLIC HEALTH AND HOME CARE

BARNES COUNTY COURTHOUSE
230 4TH Street NW, Room 102
Valley City, ND 58072

PHONE: 701-845-8518

FAX: 701-845-8542

WEB: WWW.CITYCOUNTYHEALTH.ORG

January 21, 2015

Lynette Dickson, MS
Director ND AHEC
Center for Rural Health, UNDSMHS
501 N Columbia Rd, Stop 9037
Grand Forks, ND 58202

Dr. Bill E. Krivarchka
Eastern ND AHEC Director
Sanford Medical Center Mayville
42 6th Ave. SE
Mayville, ND 58257

Denise Andress
Western ND AHEC Director
109 S Main St
PO Box 615
Hettinger, ND 58639

Dear Ms. Dickson, Dr. Krivarchka, and Ms. Andress,

On behalf of City-County Health District, we are writing this letter to support the North Dakota Area Health Education Center (ND AHEC) Program, the Eastern and Western North Dakota Area Health Education Centers (Eastern ND AHEC, Western ND AHEC). The ND AHEC/Eastern/Western ND AHEC focuses on providing support across the health care workforce pipeline to address health care workforce shortages through distribution, diversity, supply and quality health care professionals.

Over the years City-County Health District has collaborated with NDAHEC on several projects which potentially benefitted all Barnes County residents. NDAHEC sees the benefits that public health provides and is supportive of projects that effectively promote better community health. With the additions support provided through AHEC, we have been able to provide community education regarding preventive strategies to promote better health and the value of policy, systems and environment changes for improved health. Cultural diversity has been another area in which NDAHEC allowed us funding to educate key community workers allowing us to work more effectively with the many foreign-born residents who are moving to our community.

The first project was a presentation to ND health care professionals by Drs. James Hart and Stephen McDonough. They addressed two goals: increasing skills regarding how to effectively promote better community health by incorporating proven preventive strategies into daily activities, and increasing understanding of the policy and system changes needed to support health improvement. The second project featured Kostas Voutsas, a respected trainer/speaker and Professor of Business at Dickinson State University. He addressed cultural diversity in the community and school settings. This presentation was especially helpful to those who work directly with foreign-born residents in our community.

In closing, we would like to say that City-County Health District is pleased to continue a relationship that is beneficial to us and the North Dakota Area Health Education Program and the Eastern/Western North Dakota Area Health Education Centers. We believe this support is worthy and meets the needs of future health care students and professional providers, rural communities and quality health for North Dakota. Thank you.

Best regards,

Director, City-County Health District



Stands for Jobs

WESTERN NORTH DAKOTA AHEC

PO Box 615 109 South Main Hettinger, ND 58639 • 701.637.0177

western.ndahec.org

12/22/2014

Lynette Dickson, MS
Director ND AHEC
Center for Rural Health, UNDSMHS
501 N Columbia Rd, Stop 9037
Grand Forks, ND 58202

Dr. Bill E. Krivarchka
Eastern ND AHEC Director
Sanford Medical Center Mayville
42 6th Ave. SE
Mayville, ND 58257

Denise Andress
Western ND AHEC Director
109 S Main St
PO Box 615
Hettinger, ND 58639

Dear Ms. Dickson, Dr. Krivarchka, and Ms. Andress,

On behalf of the Western ND AHEC board of directors, I am writing this letter to support the North Dakota Area Health Education Center (ND AHEC) Program, the Eastern and Western North Dakota Area Health Education Centers (Eastern ND AHEC, Western ND AHEC). The ND AHEC/Eastern/Western ND AHEC focuses on providing support across the health care workforce pipeline to address health care workforce shortages through distribution, diversity, supply and quality health care professionals.

The Western ND AHEC board has been integral in the establishment of the Western ND AHEC from the beginning of the program. We have shepherded it through its establishment to where it is today. In western ND, the AHEC can provide numerous resources to assist the medical community in servicing the needs of our rural agricultural population, as well as providing resources to the Oil Patch as it struggles to maintain health care, particularly in the smaller communities. Assisting in recruiting new health care providers, from high school students becoming EMTs to recruiting potential doctors and nurses, and bringing cutting edge technology to rural providers to assist in continuing education are just some of the potential benefits from having a stable AHEC in ND.

In closing, we would like to say that the Western ND AHEC is pleased to continue a relationship that is beneficial to us and the North Dakota Area Health Education Program and the Eastern/Western North Dakota Area Health Education Centers. We believe this support is worthy and meets the needs of future health care students and professional providers, rural communities and quality health for North Dakota. Thank you.

Best regards,

Christopher Schauer, PhD
Western ND AHEC board chairman

West River Ambulance Service

PO Box 205

Hettinger, ND 58639

12/22/2014

Lynette Dickson, MS
Director ND AHEC
Center for Rural Health, UNDSMHS
501 N Columbia Rd, Stop 9037
Grand Forks, ND 58202

Dr. Bill E. Krivarchka
Eastern ND AHEC Director
Sanford Medical Center Mayville
42 6th Ave. SE
Mayville, ND 58257

Denise Andress
Western ND AHEC Director
109 S Main St
PO Box 615
Hettinger, ND 58639

Dear Ms. Dickson, Dr. Krivarchka, and Ms. Andress,

On behalf of West River Ambulance Service volunteers, we are writing this letter to support the North Dakota Area Health Education Center (ND AHEC) Program, the Eastern and Western North Dakota Area Health Education Centers (Eastern ND AHEC, Western ND AHEC). The ND AHEC/Eastern/Western ND AHEC focuses on providing support across the health care workforce pipeline to address health care workforce shortages through distribution, diversity, supply and quality health care professionals.

As a rural volunteer ambulance service, our largest issues are recruiting new members and providing continuation education to our ambulance squad. The AHEC can provide assistance in these areas through recruitment of high school students into the medical field utilizing Emergency Medical Services as a learning experience for future medical careers, and through assisting in continuing education. For a volunteer ambulance service time is our most precious commodity; the AHEC provides the resources to utilize our time more efficiently, assistance in recruiting new members and technology to make providing continuing education training on par with our urban counterparts.

In closing, we would like to say that the West River Ambulance Service is pleased to continue a relationship that is beneficial to us and the North Dakota Area Health Education Program and the Eastern/Western North Dakota Area Health Education Centers. We believe this support is worthy and meets the needs of future health care students and professional providers, rural communities and quality health for North Dakota. Thank you.

Best regards,



Christopher Schauer,
Volunteer Squad Leader, West River Ambulance Service