



NEWS RELEASE
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Next Generation of Healthcare Workers Selected for Enrichment Program

33 high-schoolers from 11 counties selected for first cohort of MAHEC Health Careers Academy

Asheville, N.C., February 20, 2023—Physicians, pharmacists, nurse practitioners, physician assistants, dentists, nurses—those are some of the healthcare job interests reported by the 33 high schoolers recently selected for the first cohort of [MAHEC Health Careers Academy](#). Representing 11 WNC counties, students in the Spring 2023 Cohort will spend the semester participating in a multitude of programs partnered with UNC Health Sciences at MAHEC, both in person and virtually.

The Academy, which is part of the [Rural Health Initiative](#), will help them prepare for their next academic and professional steps. Free to all participants, programming will include a tour of the Simulation Center, one-on-one health career advising, connections to students and faculty at MAHEC, and the culminating event: the Health Careers Summer Camp at UNC Asheville.

The enrichment program is intended to cultivate the next generation of healthcare workers, targeting sophomore, junior, and senior high school students from the 15 rural counties in MAHEC's service area (excluding Buncombe).

MAHEC's Rural Health Initiative is addressing the region's rural healthcare provider shortage through inter-professional health sciences education, collaboration with rural communities, and the development of innovative sustainable models of rural healthcare to improve health across Western North Carolina.

For more information on the Health Careers Academy and MAHEC health careers pathway programming in the rural areas of Western North Carolina, contact regional managers [Misty Cox](#) (Henderson, McDowell, Polk, Rutherford, Transylvania), [Bryan McClure](#) (Madison, Mitchell, Yancey), or [Amy Parker](#) (Cherokee, Clay, Graham, Haywood, Jackson, Macon, Swain).

About MAHEC

Established nearly five decades ago, MAHEC – Mountain Area Health Education Center – is a leader in healthcare, education, and innovation. Headquartered in Asheville with satellite offices in [various locations](#) across its 16-county Western North Carolina service area, MAHEC is the largest of nine [Area Health Education Centers](#) in North Carolina. With more than 1,000 employees, MAHEC's mission is to recruit, train and retain the workforce needed to create a healthy North Carolina, with a focus on primary care in rural communities and those with less access to resources.

MAHEC's 14-acre Biltmore campus is also home to [UNC Health Sciences at MAHEC](#), an academic health center in partnership with UNC-Chapel Hill that includes programs from the UNC School of Medicine, UNC Gillings School of Global Public Health, UNC Eshelman School of Pharmacy, and UNC Adams School of Dentistry. A private, [501\(c\)3 nonprofit organization](#), MAHEC will celebrate its 50th anniversary in 2024. For more information, visit mahec.net and follow MAHEC on [Facebook](#), [Instagram](#), [LinkedIn](#) and [Twitter](#).

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