



## NEWS RELEASE

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### **Safety Initiative Led by MAHEC Honored as Statewide Coalition of the Year**

*Safe Kids works to help families and communities help keep kids safe from injuries*

**Asheville, NC, June 9, 2023** — Safe Kids Worldwide® is a nonprofit organization working to help families and communities keep kids safe from injuries. There are more than 400 coalitions in the U.S. working to reduce preventable injuries, one of which is MAHEC-led [Safe Kids WNC](#).

By demonstrating longstanding consistency and commitment to leadership in childhood injury prevention and the strength of our community partnerships, Safe Kids WNC was recently recognized as the Safe Kids North Carolina Coalition of the Year.

About the award, Safe Kids WNC Co-coordinators Beverly Hopps and Vickie Killough said, “All of our community partnerships are what makes Safe Kids WNC strong, and we are proud that our coalition efforts were recognized on a state level.”

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#### **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](http://mahec.net) and follow MAHEC on [Facebook](#), [Instagram](#), [LinkedIn](#), and [Twitter](#).

**Mountain Area Health Education Center**

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