

# Pathways to Healthcare Careers

# HEALTHLINKS



A Newsletter from Catskill Hudson Area Health Education Center

Spring/Summer 2011

## Emergency Responder Leadership Academy 2011

Emergency response agencies face challenges every day, such as a diminishing number of volunteers, poorly-trained and/or ineffective leadership, fiscal instability, and ever-increasing demands for the services they provide.

On May 21, 2011, Catskill Hudson AHEC conducted its seventh Emergency Responder Leadership Academy (formerly, EMS Leadership Academy) at the Highland Fire District in Highland, New York.

The Emergency Responder Leadership Academy helps to provide a framework of building leadership skills, understanding personnel interaction both within and outside of their company, and how to better manage the valuable resources available so that their primary mission of serving the public is met.

During this years Academy, presentations included:

*"Fostering Motivation Through Generations"*  
by Robert Delagi, MA, NREMT-P

*"It's not a Question of IF ... Rather, It's a Question of WHEN - Planning for a large scale incident in your community."*  
by Karl Klug, MBMS, CIC, EMT-CC

*"Followship/Teamwork"*  
by Richard Beebe, MS, ED

*"Of Course your Agency Provides Excellent Service"*  
by Lee Burns, MBS, EMT-P, CIC-RF

Five medical education credits were offered to emergency service agency captains, officers and others

emergency service agency captains, officers and others in or about to be placed in a position of leadership in his/her agency who attended this program.

This years evaluation comments include: "I enjoyed being able to interact with speakers, discussing current situations and having conversations about real life situations."; "Very informative, a lot of useful information."; "This workshop was helpful to me, as a new Lieutenant in an ambulance corp."; and "This program was well put-together and organized."

The next Emergency Responder Leadership Academy will be held on September 10, 2011. The topic will be "Providing Emergency Care for Individuals with Developmental/Mental Disabilities. Please visit our website at [www.chahec.org](http://www.chahec.org) for additional information.



Robert Delagi, MA, NREMT-P



Karl Klug, BS, CIC, EMT-CC



Lee Burns, BS, EMT-P, CIC-RF



Richard Beebe, MS, ED

A PARTNER IN THE NEW YORK STATE AHEC SYSTEM

## HEALTHLINKS

## CHAHEC Announces "Nursing Summit 2011 - "eth'-ics"

NURSING SUMMIT 2011

eth'-ics

1. the study of standards of conduct and moral judgment, moral philosophy
2. a teacher on this study
3. the system or code of morals of a particular person, religion, group, profession, etc.

PRESENTED BY CATSKILL HUDSON AHEC

IN COLLABORATION WITH NYSNA AND UNYNSDO

AUGUST 11, 2011

Columbia-Greene Community College  
4400 Rt. 23, Hudson, NY

This activity has been submitted to the New York State Nurses Association for approval and credit. The New York State Nurses Association is a member of the American Nurses Association. This activity is approved for 1.75 contact hours.

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The Nursing Summit is an annual continuing education program that has been presented by Catskill Hudson AHEC (CHAHEC) for seven consecutive years. The program was developed as part of CHAHEC's Nursing Workforce Development Initiative to provide opportunities for continuing education for Nurses and other practitioners in the healthcare workforce. The focus the Nursing Summit changes annually in response to trends in healthcare or by request of Nursing Summit participants. In planning this upcoming event, CHAHEC collaborated with the New York State Nurses Association and the Upstate New York Nursing Staff Development Organization. This year's program entitled, "Nursing Summit 2011 – "eth'-ics," will focus on ethics in healthcare.

may impact the provision of care.

At this year's event, a well-respected panel of experts will provide both experience and research-based presentations of issues relevant to clinical practice that surround the provision of care to patients at end of life or within vulnerable populations. All of the panelists currently practice at distinguished bioethics institutes or healthcare facilities. Their expertise ranges from research and/or clinical practice within the scope of bioethics in the provision of patient care, and in facilitating discussions between health practitioners, patients and family members surrounding health care options and end of life decision-making, as well as the impact of this on the delivery of patient care. A mock bioethics consultation simulation will also be presented to provide attendees with opportunities for experience-based learning and participation in the ethics consultation process.

The purpose of this continuing education program is to provide an educational forum for nurses, healthcare professionals, health professions educators and health professions students, with an overview of ethics and how it pertains to medical treatment and end of life decision-making. It will also provide insight of how differing perspectives on the part of the patient, their families and healthcare providers

"Nursing Summit 2011 – "eth'-ics" will be held on August 11th at Columbia-Greene Community College located at 4400 Rt. 23 in Hudson, NY. To register, download a brochure, or obtain more information about the program or panelists, please visit the CHAHEC website Events page at [www.chahec.org/events](http://www.chahec.org/events) or call 845-883-7260. We look forward to seeing you there!

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## Nurse Mentoring Program for Students Enrolled in DCC C-STEP

In the Summer of 2009, Rochelle Roberts, a Nurse Coach (Patient Mentor), currently employed at U.S. Healthcare, contacted CHAHEC. Ms. Roberts was seeking opportunities for her and her fellow co-workers to mentor Nursing Students. At the time, CHAHEC recently developed a collaborative relationship with Dutchess Community College's Collegiate Science and Technology Entry Program (DCC C-STEP), which provides tutoring services for DCC Nursing Students enrolled in their Associate Degree Nursing Program. Because of the nature of Ms. Roberts' request, CHAHEC recognized an opportunity to develop and coordinate a program geared toward Nursing Workforce Development through a collaborative effort with DCC C-STEP. Wendy Bohlinger, Coordinator of DCC C-STEP, was contacted to determine if there was a need to develop a supportive Nurse Mentoring Program for nursing students enrolled in C-STEP tutoring programs.

Upon CHAHEC's request, Ms. Bohlinger scheduled a focus group meeting with Nursing Students enrolled in DCC C-STEP, Nurse Mentors from U. S. Healthcare and CHAHEC Staff to discuss the students' desire for mentoring and what elements would be needed to develop a program that best met those needs, as most were non-traditional students. It was determined from the focus group discussion that supportive services were needed and that the best way to accomplish this would be via conference call or email, since most of the students who participated in the focus group had family responsibilities and were working while attending Nursing school.

The Nurse Mentoring Program was then initiated in 2010.

At present, there are four Nurse Mentor volunteers from U.S. Healthcare who are experienced in Nursing Education. To date, seven DCC C-STEP Nursing Students have benefited from the Nurse Mentoring Program.

Both the Nurse Mentors and the CHAHEC Staff have received positive feedback from Nursing Students who have had the opportunity to participate in the program. CHAHEC would like to thank the dedicated Nurse Mentors from U. S. Healthcare (Rochelle Roberts, MSN, RN, Linda Karlsson, MPA, RN, Mark Piegari RN, CCM and Valente Zocchi, MS, RN) who have contributed their time and expertise toward the development of the Nurse Mentor Program. CHAHEC looks forward to the progression of the Nurse Mentor Program through the continued support of our Nurse Mentors. CHAHEC will also continue their efforts in pursuing other collaborative opportunities toward healthcare workforce development.

Testimonial from DCC C-STEP Nursing Student, Nicole McKechnie to Rochelle Roberts, Nurse Mentor: "I just wanted to say thank you for the words of encouragement that you gave me... Thank you for being one of those people that had faith (in me)... it means a lot!" Ms. McKechnie has since completed her studies and is a recent graduate from Dutchess Community College School of Nursing.



Nicole McKechnie at the Nursing Pinning Ceremony.

The following pictures are from the DCC Nursing Pinning Ceremony



You can follow us two ways at: Find "Catskill Hudson AHEC" on **FACEBOOK**

Follow us on **Twitter** @CHAHEC

## CHAHEC Staff Appointed to NYSNA Leadership Academy Graduate Program

In 1991, the New York State Nurses Association (NYSNA), developed a Leadership Fellows Program designed to foster the development of basic leadership skills for NYSNA members interested in leadership roles within the Association. In 2007, the NYSNA Board of Directors expanded the Leadership Fellows Program to include members at all levels of leadership experience. This new program, the Leadership Academy, has three distinct levels of participation and has been newly designed to foster all members in their personal and professional growth.

In 2009, Roxanna Raffa, CHAHEC's Nursing Workforce Development Coordinator, had successfully completed Tiers I and II of NYSNA's Leadership Academy and has now been appointed to the 2011-2012 Leadership Academy Tier III Graduate Program.

The Leadership Academy Graduate Program is an

intensive year-long learning experience that involves on-site lectures, webcasts and independent study. Graduates also receive one-on-one guidance from assigned mentors and NYSNA staff as they seek to assume or expand upon their current leadership roles. While participating in the program, Ms. Raffa looks forward to the opportunities and challenges of developing or enhancing a current leadership project or mentoring a Tier II Fellow throughout their Leadership Academy experience. Ms. Raffa also serves as Continuing Education Reviewer for NYSNA and is the Vice President of the Upstate New York Nursing Staff Development Organization.

For more information about the Leadership Academy program, please contact the NYSNA Education, Practice & Research Program at (800)724-NYRN (6976), ext. 282.

## CHAHEC's "SEARCH" for Clinical Training Opportunities

Since inception, CHAHEC has worked toward alleviating healthcare shortages in underserved communities throughout its 11-county region by encouraging students to enter into the health professions. With funding received from the United States Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) and Health Resources and Services Administration (HRSA), the NYS AHEC System has launched the Student/Resident Experiences and Rotation in Community Health (SEARCH) Program which provides opportunities for students enrolled in graduate health professions programs (medicine, nurse practitioner, physician assistant and dentistry) to receive clinical training in underserved areas throughout New York State. CHAHEC has been a NYS AHEC partner in SEARCH for nearly two years, working with preceptor sites within their region to provide clinical training and mentoring opportunities for students, as well as offer partial funding to both students and providers to offset costs incurred during the time of internship, while enrolled in the SEARCH program. SEARCH also provides online training opportunities for preceptors with the possibility of CME credits, as well as a toolkit with information to support healthcare providers who are

interested in mentoring and precepting health professions students.

Courtney Graham, a SEARCH participant and Nurse Practitioner student from Massachusetts General Hospital Institute of Health Professions, is in the process of completing her clinical rotation at Bassett Healthcare in Cooperstown, NY. Ms. Graham has stated how much she is "LOVING" her clinical rotation experience at Bassett and thanked the CHAHEC SEARCH Coordinator for her assistance in coordinating this opportunity for her clinical training.

To date, CHAHEC's SEARCH coordination efforts have provided 7 clinical rotations at 7 facilities. CHAHEC will continue to assist health professions students in achieving their clinical training requirements and provide preceptors with tools needed to provide a positive clinical experience for students through SEARCH.

If you are a provider or health professions student who would like to learn more about SEARCH or participate in the SEARCH program, please contact the CHAHEC office at 845-883-7260 or [info@chahec.org](mailto:info@chahec.org).