

Catskill Hudson AHEC Focused on the Profession of Nursing

An aging population, uneven distribution of nurses, and a shortage of nursing faculty – especially in rural and underserved communities – are all factors affecting the need for nurses and the ability to meet that need in New York State.

The Catskill Hudson Area Health Education Center (CHAHEC) is seeking to make a difference through its Nursing Workforce Development initiative, which is analyzing nursing specialty and faculty shortages, recruitment and retention of nursing personnel, and continuing education programs for nursing professionals. The initiative also involves outreach and collaborative efforts for students and educators as well as educational institutions, community groups and health care organizations to provide resources and opportunities for education and training supportive of the continued development of the

nursing profession.

CHAHEC also has provided various other programs, such as the annual Nursing Summit, which has been well attended by nurses and other



CHAHEC's annual Nursing Summit is well-attended.

health care professionals for the past 4 years. The Hudson Mohawk AHEC collaborated in this year's *Nursing Summit 2009: Use of Technology for Teaching and Staff Development*, held at

the New York State Nurses Association (NYSNA) in Latham on August 6.

The last 3 Nursing Summits have been planned and coordinated by Roxanna Raffa, RN, MSN,

Education Coordinator for CHAHEC. Ms. Raffa is a Leadership Academy Fellow of the NYSNA and the Secretary of the Upstate New York Nursing Staff Development Organization (UNYNSDO). She has been active in student and professional nursing events, developing print and web-based resources specific to nursing, and in mentoring students and other health professionals with continuing education program development.

To learn more about CHAHEC, nursing continuing education events or student programs in the Catskill Hudson region, please visit: www.chahec.org