



## NEWS RELEASE

### Catskill Hudson AHEC Awarded the 2016 AHEC Center Award for Excellence in Health Careers Recruitment for Scrubs Club

Contact: Katherine Doyle  
(845) 883-7260

July 19, 2016  
IMMEDIATE RELEASE



Catskill Hudson Area Health Education Center (AHEC) was awarded the 2016 National AHEC Organization (NAO) Center Award for Excellence in Health Careers Recruitment for *Scrubs Club, Pathways to Health Careers* at the NAO Convention on June 28, 2016, in Washington, DC in front of over 500 healthcare workforce development leaders and health educators from around the country.

Scrubs Club was conceptualized in early 2012 by Kathryn Reed, MHA, CMPE, Executive Director (*retired in 2015*) of Catskill Hudson AHEC in collaboration with Gertrude O’Sullivan, Director of Communications & Special Programs for The Foundation for Community Health to teach high school students about various health occupations as viable future career options. The program was then developed by Catskill Hudson AHEC and launched as a 3-year, longitudinal pilot program at Dover High School in Dutchess County, NY during the 2012-2013 school year with 21 student members (which had increased to 30 student members by 2015). An impact survey was conducted by Catskill Hudson AHEC to measure the success of the program for the graduating Dover Scrubs Club students. The survey concluded that 90% of these students planned to continue their education past high school, and 85% of them were planning to pursue a career in healthcare.

Since the launch of the pilot program, Scrubs Club has been integrated into high schools, at-risk youth organizations, and afterschool centers across the United States, including Alabama, California, Connecticut, Indiana, Kentucky, Massachusetts, New York, Texas, and Wisconsin.

“It is an honor to be recognized for my contribution to this program. It was a team effort of the entire staff to develop the curriculum and implement the program, which has been such a success both locally and nationally. I am so pleased that Catskill Hudson AHEC was selected for this well-deserved award,” stated Kathryn Reed.

The success of this program is the result of the engaging lesson plans, hands-on activities, and meaningful field trips that capture the attention of the students because many of the clinical lesson plans were designed to enable students to “test drive” various health occupation skills through interactive activities. The student experiences are also elevated with up-close and real-life learning opportunities through suggested on-site hospital tours, simulation lab visits, and related exhibitions. The versatility of the lesson plans enable instructors to incorporate the program into daily class curriculum, utilize it as an afterschool activity, or apply it as a longitudinal program.

For additional information on Scrubs Club, please visit [www.CHAHEC.org](http://www.CHAHEC.org) or call (845) 883-7260 to speak with a staff member. Catskill Hudson AHEC is a non-profit organization whose mission is to address regional healthcare workforce shortages through education and collaborative community relationships to assist students, career seekers, and health professions.



From left to right:  
Gertrude O’Sullivan &  
Kathryn Reed

—###—

**Catskill-Hudson Area Health Education Center**  
598 Route 299, Highland, New York 12528  
(845) 883-7260 Phone (845) 883-7837 Fax  
[www.chahec.org](http://www.chahec.org)

**Catskill-Hudson Area Health Education Center**

598 Route 299, Highland, New York 12528

(845) 883-7260 Phone (845) 883-7837 Fax

[www.chahec.org](http://www.chahec.org)