

Eastern WV Rural Health Education Consortium

A consortium of the WV Rural Health Education Partnerships (www.wvrhepahec.org)

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Recruitment and Retention of Former RHEP Students

The consortium would like to welcome Kelli Riggleman, dental hygienist, and Brittney Myers, physician assistant, as health care providers.

Riggleman is a graduate of West Virginia University and is practicing at Barr & Thorne, DDS in Moorefield. She completed her RHEP rotation with David Harman, DDS in Petersburg. She felt the RHEP program benefits were showing her how to collaborate with other health care providers as well as the importance of community outreach.

The need for hygienists in WV and her hometown is what influenced her to pursue a career in health care. As a provider, she hopes to provide health care and oral hygiene education as well as participate in other activities that relate to her field. Stressing the unmet health care needs as well as providing scholarships are two ways she suggested to recruit and retain additional providers.

Riggleman received the WVU Alumni Association Award for Outstanding Clinical Competency & Professionalism. She is a member of the National Honor Society of Collegiate Schools. She resides in Petersburg with her husband, Tyson.

Myers is a graduate of Shenandoah University and is practicing at Graves Medical Practice in Berkeley Springs. She completed her RHEP rotations with her current employer as well as with Dr. Harshad Bokil in Keyser. She felt the RHEP program assisted her in helping to further develop her skills as a PA and provided her with various ways to reach out to the community.

Educating the public about the lack of health care as well as continuing to provide opportunities for students to work with rural providers are her suggestions to recruit and retain additional providers.

Myers is a member of the American Academy of Physician Assistants. She thanked the RHEP program for providing her the opportunity to reach out to the community!

Eastern AHEC Teams Address Tobacco and Diabetes

Two Eastern Area Health Education Center (AHEC) teams of health science students and medical residents completed projects at the consortium. In March a team addressed smokeless tobacco in the Petersburg community. The team was led by Dr. David Roelkey, family medicine resident at the WVU Rural Residency Program at Harpers Ferry. Participating team members were Komaira Ferdous, WV School of Osteopathic Medicine student, Renee Chieco, WVU pharmacy student, and Megan Schultz, Alderson-Broadus physician assistant student.

The team distributed smokeless tobacco education material to local health care businesses including pharmacies and physician offices. The team also set up a booth at Petersburg Foodland to distribute material and talk with individuals about resources available to quit tobacco. The project addressed the WV Healthy People 2010 Objective 27.7 - Reduce smokeless tobacco use among adult men aged 18+ to 13% or lower.

In March a team addressed diabetes in Berkeley Springs. The team was led by Dr. Zoovia Aman, family medicine resident at the WVU Rural Residency Program in Harpers Ferry. Participating team members were Thomas Richardson and Leslie Buchanan, WV School of Osteopathic Medicine students, and E. Steven Fragale, WVU dental student.

The team discussed diabetes at the Morgan County Senior Center in Berkeley Springs. The project addressed the WV Healthy People 2010 Objective 5.9 - Increase to 52% the proportion of persons with diabetes who have received diabetes education in the past year from someone other than their physician.

The Eastern AHEC is under the direction of the West Virginia University School of Medicine - Eastern Division. The team is coordinated locally by the Eastern WV Rural Health Education Consortium.

Upcoming Events

4/7 & 14	End-of-Life Care Course by MDTV, Petersburg
4/20	Consortium Board of Directors Meeting, Romney
6/14 & 15	WVRHEP Advisory Panel, Joint RHEP/AHEC & Committee Meetings, Flatwoods
6/22	Consortium Board of Directors Meeting, Romney

RHEP Students Promote Dental Health

February was National Dental Health Month and RHEP students provided valuable education to children in the community. Below is information on the projects that were completed.

- Nicole Ours, WV School of Osteopathic Medicine student, educated 3 & 4 year olds on dental health at EACHS Head Start Program in Petersburg.
- Josef Loewenthal, WVU dental student, educated LPNs on how to conduct an oral health screening at the Kenneth Honey Rubenstein Juvenile Center in Davis.
- Jessica Gillman, WV School of Osteopathic Medicine student, educated 3 & 4 year olds on dental health at the Grant County Pre-school in Petersburg.
- Erin Bateman, Shenandoah University physician assistant student, educated 3 & 4 year olds on dental health at EACHS Head Start Program in Moorefield and Old Fields.
- Brian Kellermeyer, WVU medical student, educated kindergarten students on dental health at Fort Ashby Primary School and Wiley Ford Primary School.
- Christopher Chambers, WVU dental student, educated CNAs and hospital employees on how to care for the teeth of dependent patients at Grant Memorial Hospital.
- Christopher Chambers, WVU dental student, educated elementary students on dental health at Petersburg Elementary School.

- Joy Juskowich, WVU medical student, Katie Woodward, WVU nursing student, and Jason Newman and Marina Way, Shenandoah University physician assistant students educated kindergarten to 5th graders on dental health at Keyser Primary Middle School.
- Heather Gibson, WVU dental student, spoke to HSTA club members at Tucker County High School about the career opportunities that WVU School of Dentistry has to offer.
- Stephen Abbott, WV School of Osteopathic Medicine, student educated 4 year olds on dental health at the Teddy Bear Day Care Pre-K Program in Petersburg.
- Dana Wright, WVU dental student, educated adults on “Oral Hygiene at Any Age” at the Morgan County Senior Services Center in Berkeley Springs.
- Mareesa Cunningham, WVU pharmacy student, educated the Diabetes Class at City Hospital in Martinsburg on oral care and complications for diabetes patients.
- Stephanie Byard, WVU dental student, provided oral health education to Kindergarten through 2nd graders at CW Shipley Elementary in Harpers Ferry.
- Dana Wright, WVU dental student, provided dental education for 2nd graders at Widmyer Elementary in Berkeley Springs.
- Sarah Telenko, St. Francis physician assistant student, Amanda Hoover and Mareesa Cunningham, WVU pharmacy students, provided oral health education at TA Lowery Head Start in Shenandoah Junction and St. James Head Start in Charles Town.

Newsletter Publication

To submit an article, contact Malinda Turner at 304-257-5812 or mturner@marshall.edu. We reserve the right to edit all articles.