



## Mission

The mission of the Centennial Area Health Education Center is to enhance health (individual and community) in northeastern Colorado by building collaborations with local providers and organizations and utilizing educational strategies to address health disparities and workforce shortages.

## 2008-2009 Highlights

### Recruit students from underserved areas

- Collaborated with other Colorado AHEC centers on the Summer Health Career Institute in Denver; sponsored 20 students from the region; enrolled students in MYAHEC webpage, tool for tracking them
- Updated and distributed a manual of over 100 scholarships for health professions students
- Received El Pomar foundation award to develop "in-depth" recruitment programs in Brush and Yuma
- Administered The Colorado Trust's Health Professional Scholarship in concert with CO AHEC partners; 4 scholarships awarded to NE graduate students in the health science
- Served on The Colorado Trust's Health Workforce Collaborative developing recommendations for policy-makers
- Promoted health careers at Limon career fair
- Sponsored field trip for Brush middle school science students to CU Anschutz campus

### Train health professions students in underserved areas

- Supported clinical rotations of 123 health professions students in Larimer, Lincoln, Logan, Morgan, Weld and Yuma Counties
- Arranged community service experiences for family medicine students in the region, including
  - Science updates for high school students,
  - Newborn home visits with Baby Bear Hugs
  - Migrant health fairs
  - Assistance on CU dental van in Washington & Yuma Counties
- Recruited Dr Paul Simmons, a family physician in Haxtun, as preceptor
- Hosted CU School of Nursing students taking interactive TV course in Greeley

### Support professionals in rural areas

- Provided 12 continuing education programs for over 400 participants from front range and eastern plains
- Sponsored the 19<sup>th</sup> Annual Nurse Educator Conference in the Rockies with 350 nursing faculty and staff development coordinators attending

### Enhance local health environments

- Administered the *Eastern Plains Partnership for Health* in Lincoln, Kit Carson and Cheyenne Counties; received Phase 2 funding The Colorado Trust to promote healthy lifestyles including
  - Co-op cooking class for adults
  - Side-by-Side cooking class for children and parents; received Remote Partner of the Year award from Operation Frontline
  - Promoting physical activities
  - Providing nutrition curriculum for elementary students
- Provided health education at health fairs in Brush, Ft Morgan, Sterling and Greeley
- Administered regional *Nightingale Awards for Excellence in Nursing* in northeastern Colorado; 33 RN nominees with 4 Centennial Award winners & and 3 LPN nominees (1 awardee)
- Offered UCDHSC's Mini-Med School in Greeley for 13 participants
- Partnered with the Colorado Prevention Center and 9Health Fairs on *Health-e-Solutions*, a kiosk-based cardiovascular health risk assessment at 16 NE Colorado sites for nearly 2,000 residents; established a community health worker program in partnership with Kit Carson County Health & Human Services
- Established the *Eastern Plains Oral Health Initiative*, a school-based dental education, screening and prophylactic program for Pre-K to 2<sup>nd</sup> grade students in Lincoln, Kit Carson, Cheyenne, Phillips, Sedgwick, Washington and Yuma Counties; funded by Caring for Colorado Foundation; 2,000 students educated on oral health, 1,000 students received oral screenings and fluoride treatments and over 200 second-graders received sealants on their permanent molars.
- Presented CO Conversations to students and community groups; discussing health policy issues and conducted on-site opinion polls