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**Students compete in statewide healthcare case competition hosted by Wisconsin AHEC**

The Wisconsin AHEC (Area Health Education Centers) System held the fourth annual statewide interprofessional healthcare case competition January 12 – 13, 2017 at the Kalahari Resort in the Wisconsin Dells. The eight teams, chosen from 34 that applied, competed for up to a $3,000 first-place cash prize.

The teams, made up of students studying healthcare disciplines from public and private universities across the state, represented six out of the seven Wisconsin AHEC regions, with three teams representing Milwaukee AHEC.

The students were assigned a case study of a complicated situation, and each team worked together for two months to conduct an analysis of the efforts and opportunities at the hospital and within the community. The top teams then traveled to the Wisconsin Dells to present their findings and recommendations for enhanced interprofessional collaboration.

The panel of judges consisted of leaders from multiple disciplines within Wisconsin’s healthcare community: Kathy Loppnow, Education Director for Health Sciences at the Wisconsin Technical College system; Stephanie Stewart, Dean of Nursing at Bellin College; Roger Rego, CFO of Bridge Community Clinic; Mari Freiberg, Executive Director of Scenic Bluffs Community Health Centers; and Paria Sanaty Zadeh, UW-Madison student and former competitor.

Concurrent with the case competition, Wisconsin AHEC also hosted an interprofessional resource fair, called an “I.P. Village”, consisting of stations for 32 professionals from multiple health professions. The hosts of the I.P. Village stations included representatives from the following professions: registered nurse, physician assistant, community health worker, physician, nurse educator, occupational therapist, EMT, public health worker, AmeriCorps member, physical therapist, community action program director, pharmacist, athletic trainer, and nurse practitioner. Touring the I.P. Village and talking with professionals at the stations gave students an opportunity to explore roles and responsibilities through the perspective of different healthcare professionals.

Cash prizes were awarded to the top three teams.

First place ($3,000) went to a team representing Scenic Rivers AHEC: Brenna Krawczyk (Carroll University, biology), Devanshi Patel (Carroll University, biochemistry), Bailey Donovan (UW-Madison, animal science, pre-veterinary) and Tara Zielke (Carroll University, biochemistry).

The second place ($2,000) team represented Northeastern AHEC: Forrest Beck (Concordia University of WI, pharmacy), Maria Barnes (Marquette University, dentistry), Britt Bickert (Concordia University of WI, physician assistant), and Matt Briski (Concordia University of WI, pharmacy).

Third place ($1,000) went to a team representing Northwest AHEC: Megan Colberg (WITC-Ashland, nursing), Della Thompson (WITC-Ashland, AD nursing gerontology), and Sarah Grubisic (WITC-Ashland, AD nursing).

AHEC also hosted a reflection session for the students to discuss their experience on their team while participating in the case analysis throughout the fall semester, and how these teamwork skills will apply to their future interprofessional practice.

The Wisconsin AHEC System is a non-profit organization funded by federal grants, the State of Wisconsin, the state’s health professions training programs, and local communities. It consists of seven regional centers and one statewide program office. Wisconsin AHEC is a health professions education and outreach program that is part of a nationwide network of programs working to improve accessibility and quality of primary health care while encouraging universities and educators to partner in addressing local health care problems. Wisconsin AHEC provided meals and lodging for students attending the competition, along with opportunities to network with healthcare professionals from around the state. For further information, see www.ahec.wisc.edu.

Photo album available at: [go.wisc.edu/v6l526](http://go.wisc.edu/v6l526)

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