

## Advocacy at the Capitol



AHEC director **Stephanie Taylor** and HCC Network CEO **Toniann Richard**, visited with Legislators at the Missouri Capitol to advocate for supporting AHEC funding and activities, including a visit with Freshman Pattie Mansur of Kansas City, Missouri. Pattie was formerly with the REACH Foundation for many years and was a big supporter of the work that HCC Network and AHEC does in rural communities.

## Workforce Conference

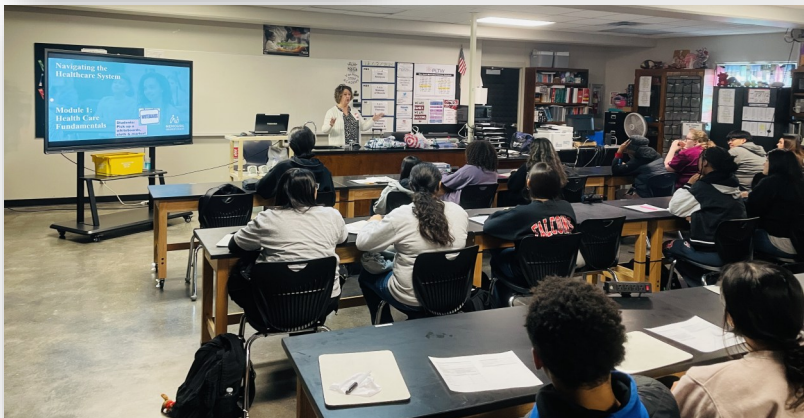


AHEC Scholar, **Biwy Cadet**, attended the Missouri Rural Health Association's Rural Health Workforce Conference, April 1-2 in Columbia, Missouri along with AHEC director, **Stephanie Taylor**.



## Independence School District Presents AHEC With Award

West Central Missouri AHEC was honored to receive a Community Engagement award from the Independence School District STEM Academies this year for their collaboration with PLTW (*Project Lead the Way*) classes at Van Horn, William Chrisman, and Truman High Schools. Several ISD students are also involved in the ACES program outside of school. AHEC has collaborated with these teachers for many years to increase student interest in health careers and prepare students for training programs.



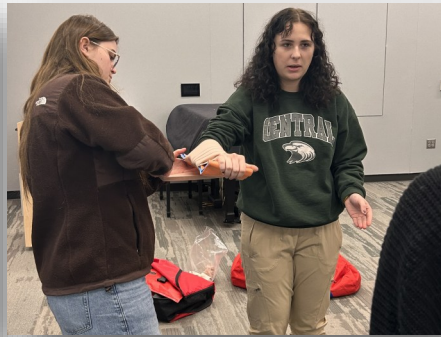
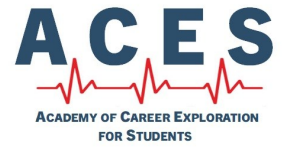
## Health Literacy Training for Van Horn Students

AHEC provided health literacy training for students at Van Horn High Schools' PLTW Medical Interventions course. This program teaches students basics such as self advocacy, types of providers, types of healthcare, and family healthcare history.



## Students explore healthcare training programs.

This spring, ACES students learned about health career training programs such as **laboratory technology** at North Kansas City Hospital, **radiologic technology** at Metropolitan Community College Health Science Institute, **athletic training** from Central Methodist University, and **public health** from former AHEC Scholar Melissa Fillyaw and former ACES student Maryn White.





## End of Year ACES Awards



### Perfect Attendance

Keavon Ashley, Nabeel Al Chelabi, Will Hickman, Kinsey Sullivan, Madison Davis, Lilley Lungstrum, Kaiya Iboaya, Kayden Starkes, Bailey Coulter, Erica Davis, Erin Berg



### BRONZE Medal (30 hours)

Muhammad Farooqui, Naomi Henry, Keavon Ashley, Nabeel Al Chelabi, Harper Agee, Will Hickman, Ella Yue, Yashica Sharma, Abby Truong, Lilley Lungstrum, Sadeen Alawnih, Abby Truong, Laney Hilden, Alyssa McCurren, Bailey Coulter, Erica Davis, Erin Berg, Megan Killoy, Peyton Roberts, Mahad Amin, Livvy Swanson, Ismael Abdulkadir, Kayden Starkes, Kaiya Iboaya, Kinsey Sullivan, Lillian Spruell



**Abby Truong**  
UMKC Pre-medicine

**Ankita Kapoor**  
Rockhurst University  
Pre-medicine

**Armeen Farooqui**  
UMKC Pre-pharmacy

**Brook Crotts**  
Pre-dentistry

**Cadee Wesells**  
UMKC Bachelor of  
Health Science

**Kendyll Gethers**  
Truman State  
Public Health

**Nathan Graham**  
Pre-medicine

**Leasia Brownlee**  
University of Kansas  
Pre-medicine

**Rory Day**  
University of Kansas  
Pre-medicine

**Neer Patel**  
UMKC School of Medicine

**Yashica Sharma**  
UMKC School of Medicine



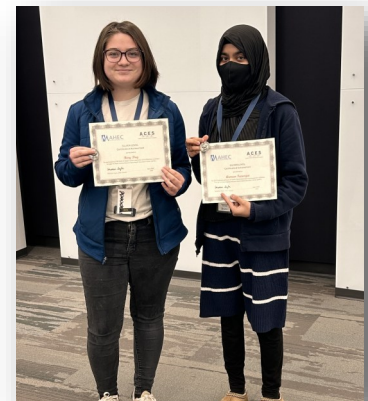
### Seniors

Rory Day, Kendyll Gethers, Armeen Farooqui, Abby Truong, Yashica Sharma, and Cadee Wessells



### ACES Ambassadors

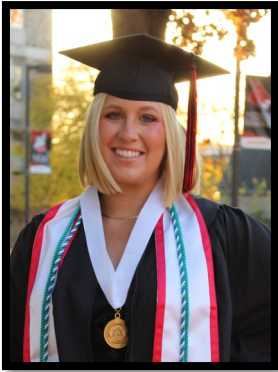
Abby Truong, Yashica Sharma, Rory Day and Sharon Lee



**SILVER Medal (60 hours)**  
Rory Day and Armeen Farooqui

*Well done!*

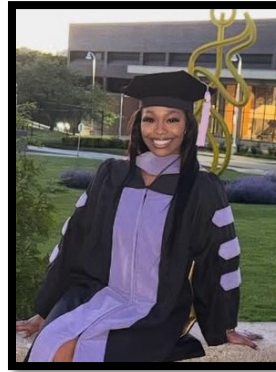
## Congratulations to our AHEC Scholars Graduates Health Professions Programs!



**Demi Downey**  
University of Central Missouri  
Bachelor of Science in  
Community Health



**Margaret Capotosto**  
Rockhurst University  
Master of Science in  
Occupational Therapy



**Precious Hollins**  
UMKC School of Dentistry  
Doctor of  
Dental Surgery



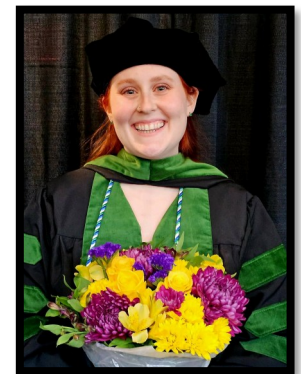
**Abigail Nardi**  
Kansas City University  
Doctor of  
Osteopathic Medicine



**Jorden Alex**  
Kansas City University  
Doctor of  
Osteopathic Medicine



**Brittany Belme Contreras**  
Kansas City University  
Doctor of  
Osteopathic Medicine



**Alisa Rippee**  
Kansas City University  
Doctor of  
Osteopathic Medicine



**Nicole Neville**  
Kansas City University  
Doctor of  
Osteopathic Medicine



**Michaela Tonsager**  
Kansas City University  
Doctor of  
Osteopathic Medicine



**Taryn Bissing**  
Kansas City University  
Doctor of  
Osteopathic Medicine



**Wes Weske**  
UMKC School of Medicine  
Doctor of  
Allopathic Medicine



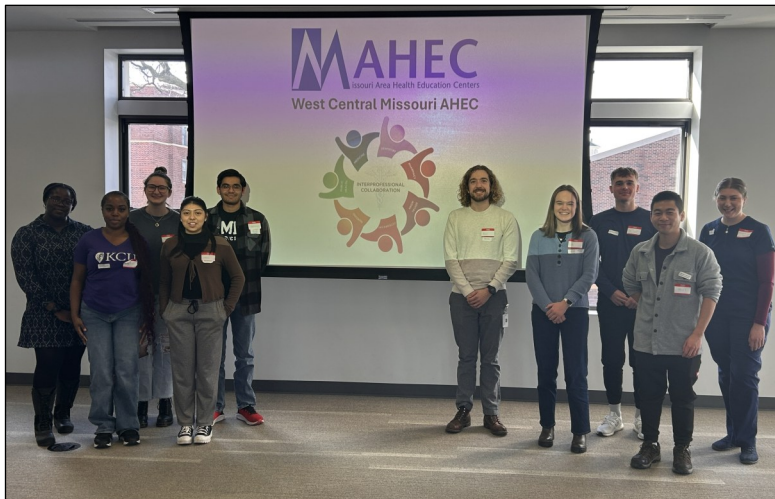


## 2025 Interprofessional Case Collaborative

Ten health professions students including eight AHEC Scholars participate in the annual MAHEC Case Collaborative on Saturday, January 11. Students assessed and diagnosed one patient with diabetes and one with a traumatic brain injury and developed treatment plans for their recovery, demonstrating the connection between healthy lifestyle choices to decrease the chance of developing a preventable medical condition.

Students represented the following health profession programs:

- Kansas City University School of Medicine
- University of Missouri—Kansas City School of Medicine
- Metropolitan Community College—Kansas City Occupational Therapy Assistant



**Executive Director:**  
**Stephanie Taylor**

**Advisory Board:**  
**Amanda Arnold**  
**Brook Ballentine**  
*HCC Network*

**Chelsea Barbercheck**  
*KC STEM Alliance*

**Caroline Bequette**  
*Cleveland University*

**Richie Bigham**  
*University of Missouri – Kansas City School of Dentistry*

**Jeremy Bonnesen**  
*Summit Tech Academy,  
Lee's Summit School District*

**Ronda Cuington**  
*Veteran's Administration*

**Karen Doyle**  
*University of Central Missouri*

**Sierra Grady**  
*Rockhurst University  
Occupational Therapy*

**Todd Geringer**  
*Health Science Institute  
Metropolitan Community College*

**Lori Halsey**  
*Independence School District*

**Eric Johnson**  
*University of Missouri – Kansas City School of Medicine  
Physician Assistant Program*

**Dr. Sharon Little-Stoetzel**  
*Graceland School of Nursing*



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West Central Missouri AHEC is a member of the Missouri AHEC Network and a member of the National AHEC Organization.