



The Georgia Statewide AHEC Network Partnership Report Investing in Tomorrow's Healthcare Workforce Mercer University School of Medicine

About the Georgia Statewide AHEC Network

The Georgia Statewide Area Health Education Center (AHEC) Network, coordinated by Augusta University, is a multi-disciplinary partnership addressing health professional supply and distribution challenges in rural and underserved areas. Its mission is to increase access to primary care services in these communities through the recruitment, training, and retention of health professionals. Key objectives include educating community members about health career opportunities, recruiting future providers, facilitating community-based clinical training for students and residents, and offering education and resources to support healthcare professionals.

Impact Snapshot: Mercer University School of Medicine | January-December 2024

The Impact Snapshot highlights the measurable contributions of the Georgia Statewide AHEC Network's 6 regions in partnership with Mercer University School of Medicine during the January-December 2024 calendar year. These numbers capture the direct support provided to both students and volunteer community-based faculty, reflecting how AHEC resources strengthen Georgia's healthcare workforce pipeline:

Category	Number
Rotations Supported by Housing	65
Rotations Supported by Travel Stipends	27
Rotations Supported by PTIP	1912
Total PTIP Tax Credit Value	\$666,250

Thank you for your continued partnership in preparing Georgia's healthcare workforce. Together, we made it possible for **92 medical student rotations** to take place in Georgia communities through housing, travel stipends, and the Preceptor Tax Incentive Program. These efforts directly supported students, reinforced the rural pipeline, sustained the faculty base essential for hands-on clinical training, and reinvested over **\$666,250** into our volunteer community-based faculty. These efforts strengthen the rural pipeline, sustain the faculty base essential for hands-on clinical training, and ensure Georgia communities continue to benefit from a well-prepared healthcare workforce.

Our Partnership with Mercer University School of Medicine

We deeply value our partnership with the *Mercer University School of Medicine*. Together, we provide your students with meaningful, supported learning experiences that prepare them to serve Georgia's diverse communities. Your volunteer faculty are critical to this mission, generously sharing their expertise and mentoring the next generation of providers.



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Georgia's Six AHEC Regions

The Georgia Statewide AHEC Network is composed of six regional centers strategically located across the state—each serving a distinct geographic area with unique healthcare needs. These centers are deeply rooted in their communities, building relationships with local healthcare facilities, educational institutions, and community organizations. Together, they coordinate student housing, arrange clinical placements, connect learners with experienced preceptors, and provide ongoing support to both students and faculty. While each center tailors its programs to address regional priorities, all share the common mission of improving healthcare access in rural and underserved areas by recruiting, training, and retaining the next generation of health professionals.

Student and Preceptor Support

Students – Community Based Training Support

- Free /low-cost housing during rural and underserved clinical rotations
- Travel stipends to offset transportation expenses
- Resources that enhance learning and reduce barriers
- Coordinated placement support across AHEC regions

Preceptors – Teaching and Recognition

- Preceptor Tax Incentive Program (PTIP): Georgia income tax credit for eligible volunteer faculty
- Faculty development opportunities and educational resources
- Consistent communication to sustain clinical teaching capacity

Why We Support Students and Preceptors

Our mission is to ensure that every community in Georgia has access to well-trained, committed health professionals. By supporting **students** during community-based clinical rotations, we reduce financial and logistical barriers, provide first-hand exposure to rural and underserved practice, and influence career choices that strengthen Georgia's workforce. Equally, we invest in **preceptors**, the volunteer community-based faculty who make these rotations possible by recognizing their service through the **Preceptor Tax Incentive Program (PTIP)**, offering targeted faculty development and teaching resources, and streamlining coordination and communication. Supporting both learners and preceptors sustains clinical training capacity, improves educational quality and patient care, and helps retain experienced clinicians in communities across the state.

More Information

Visit our website at www.augusta.edu/ahec