



SOWEGA-AHEC Nursing Workforce Summit Local Challenges – Local Strategies – Local Solutions

Southwest Georgia Area Health Education Center's (SOWEGA-AHEC), #1 Goal for the 2020-2023 Strategic Plan is to: **Improve RN pipeline to reduce shortages, improve quality, and increase retention.** With the support of Senator/Doctor Dean Burke, and based on the success of the Georgia Statewide AHEC's Primary Care Summit that developed the Preceptor Tax Incentive Program, we plan to convene a similar summit to address the nursing workforce challenges specific to our 38-county region.

According to *Registered Nursing*, Georgia will have the 6th-worst nursing shortage in the country by 2030 (<https://www.registerednursing.org/largest-nursing-shortages/>). With the challenges of educating, recruiting, and retaining a qualified nursing workforce exasperated in southwest Georgia, we need to act now. Will you be a part of the solution?

Vision:

Convene regional stakeholders engaged in educating, training, employing, and working as nurses, and through open dialogue, identify and prioritize Southwest Georgia's primary deficits and challenges. Develop a long term strategy to create a pipeline that increases the number of nurses, their ability to transition from academics to care, and develop environments that promote retention.

- ✓ Evidenced-based strategies
- ✓ Long term commitment, not a single event

Outcome:

Engaged stakeholders actively collaborating to eliminate traditional barriers and new workplace challenges to increase the nursing pipeline and meet the regional staffing needs with students and nurses committed to SWGA.

- ✓ One solution will not fit every need
- ✓ Strategies will include policy, budget and legislative solutions

What:

Series of facilitated meetings with the first summit providing a regional workforce snapshot to help identify and prioritize key issues, and begin to develop short and long term actions in response to the issues.

- ✓ Understand the SWGA nursing workforce and education pipeline through survey and focus group data collection
- ✓ Discussion vs. Lecture-based meetings

Who:

Within SOWEGA-AHEC's 38-county region (listed below), Deans of Nursing, (USG, TCSG, and private), hospitals, FQHCs, primary educators, AHEC, workforce development agencies, and Georgia's Rural Innovation and Prosperity Centers.

- ✓ Collaborative agenda with mutually beneficial recommendations and strategy
- ✓ Individuals invited based on existing expertise in the field
- ✓ Diverse voices actively engaged in aligning resources and people

Committed to SOWEGA-AHEC's RN Summit (to date):

SOWEGA-AHEC, Georgia Statewide AHEC Network, Senator Dean Burke, GHA's Center for Rural Health, Georgia Board of Health Care Workforce, Georgia Hospital Association Center for Rural Health, Georgia Nursing Association, Georgia Rural Health Innovation Center, Georgia Rural Prosperity Center, Carl Vincent Institute, plus academic and employer partners continue to be identified and commit to the summit.

Continue to check this site for the most up to date information. If you have questions, please contact Laura Calhoun. We look forward to working with you to help improve the nursing workforce in Southwest Georgia and improve the health outcomes in our region.

Laura

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Students to Health Careers

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SOWEGA-AHEC's Region: Atkinson, Bacon, Baker, Ben Hill, Berrien, Brooks, Calhoun, Clay, Clinch, Coffee, Colquitt, Cook, Crisp, Decatur, Dooly, Dougherty, Early, Echols, Grady, Irwin, Lanier, Lee, Lowndes, Miller, Mitchell, Pulaski, Quitman, Randolph, Seminole, Stewart, Sumter, Terrell, Thomas, Tift, Turner, Webster, Wilcox and Worth