



MEETING: RHPP Directors and Regional Center Directors
 DATE: April 15, 2026
 TIME: 12:00 – 12:36pm
 PLACE: AHEC Zoom Meeting
 HOST: Leila Barraza
 RHPP Director Attendees: Bettie Coplan, Gina Buban, Christy Pacheco, Bryna Koch, Andrea Lerner, Amy Kennedy, Shelley Vaughn, Jonathan Cartsonis
 Center Director Attendees: Jeff Axtell, Yolanda Perez, Shannan Gonzlez, Marica Martinic
 Other Attendees: Jennifer Zúñiga, Rachel Ramos, Sonia Cota-Robles, Marni Valenzuela, Nicole Paredes, Edgardo Figuero, Alyssa Gough, Joe Harrison, Brooke Rector, Abby Sanchez, Coy Collins (UA PA RHPP), Kaia Kordosky-Herrera (UA PA RHPP)

ITEM	ANNOUNCEMENT/DISCUSSION	Information provided by:
Meeting 12:00pm	Welcome	Leila Barraza
Discussion	<p>RHPP Conference: The 14th Annual Interprofessional Rural Health Professions Conference was held Friday, April 10 through Saturday, April 11, with a total of 333 unique attendees across both days. This included 39 participants at the in-person satellite location in Phoenix, hosted by CAAHEC on Saturday. All RHPPs were invited to participate, with 31 students attending in person (all AHEC Scholars): 16 from ASU CONHI, 7 from NAU PA, 4 from NAU SON, 2 from NAU OT, 1 from UA COP, and 1 from UA CPH. Thanks to RHPP Directors for co-hosting the satellite viewing location and for other support during the conference. Recordings of the conference are posted on the AzAHEC website along with speaker handouts and slides.</p> <p>Preliminary results from the conference satisfaction survey were shared in a brief PowerPoint. Final survey results were distributed to all Center/RHPP directors on 5/4/26.</p> <p>RHPP Director panelists received feedback from students indicating that they really enjoyed the panel and/or have reached out about issues raised during the discussion.</p> <p>The process for poster winner awards will be the same as last year. Centers will submit invoices for the awards. An email will go out with more information about this.</p> <p>Updates to RHPP FY27 Awards: Information on pending changes is being rolled out in a series of four meetings. Three of the meetings already happened:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Enhancements to Salesforce to improve identification of medically underserved and rural clinical sites. (4/8/26) • Performance-based budget formulas based on reported metrics across RHPPs; this enhanced process will be similar to Regional Centers' budget process. (4/13/26) • Enhancements to Salesforce to improve reporting of rotations which are supported by a Regional Center. (4/29/26) <p>PowerPoint slides have been distributed to all RHPP Directors, including those who weren't able to attend the meetings. One meeting remains:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Concurrent with the RFP release, a budget development technical assistance session will be scheduled to support the completion of the proposals. Final meeting: Wednesday, May 27 at 2pm: https://arizona.zoom.us/j/89340178406 	<p>Jennifer Zuniga/Marni Valenzuela</p> <p>Sonia Cota-Robles</p> <p>Rachel Ramos</p> <p>Jennifer Zuniga</p>

	<p>If RHPPs would like to discuss how the performance-based budget formulas discussed may impact their specific program, they are invited to schedule an individual meeting with AzAHEC through the following calendly link: https://calendly.com/d/cvm7-rqr-6yw/individual-rhpp-rfp-meeting.</p> <p>AzAHEC also be setting up a meeting for Centers to discuss good news on Center contracts. More details forthcoming.</p> <p>Rural Health Conference Presentation by Centers: The Rural Health Conference will occur in Flagstaff on June 2 and 3, 2026. This will take place at the same location (High Country Conference Center) as last year. The conference hotel is the same as last year (Drury Inn & Suites). Rooms on the conference block are almost gone, so hotel reservations should be made soon. More info: https://crh.arizona.edu/events/52nd-annual-arizona-rural-health-conference.</p> <p>For the conference, AHEC proposed a panel on the topic of field experience support with the Centers. This presentation was approved. It will take place on 6/2 at 3pm.</p> <p>AHEC Scholars Announcements: An email with calendar dates for FY26-28 AHEC Scholar dates was sent to students, RHPPs and Centers. These dates mostly pertain to students but are important for Centers and RHPPs to remember. Updates have also been made to the ASP page on the AzAHEC website and in D2L-Brightspace. The AHEC Scholars application is now available (ASP application). The deadline for applications for the 26-28 Cohort is Sunday, September 13. A short picture video of previous community immersions is available here. RHPPs are welcome to use this for recruitment efforts.</p> <p>Centers should let Nicole know if:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Their current faculty mentor (cohort 24-26) plans to stay on for the next cohort 26-28 so their DCC status can be renewed. All faculty mentor contracts expire in June. Deadline is June 1. • There will be a new mentor for cohort 26-28. Deadline is July 1. • The alternative immersion dates for cohort 25-27 will be used. Deadline is July 31. <p>Nicole sent a calendar invite to Centers identifying the dates above.</p> <p>Center/RHPP Updates: NAU DPT has identified a new RHPP Director: Carrie Schuessler. Carrie is faculty for the program, and her background aligns with the mission of Arizona AHEC. NAU DPT will work both with Carrie and AzAHEC to ensure a smooth transition into this next RFP period.</p> <p>It would be great to create a one-stop shop for RHPP Directors where all contact information is stored (e.g., housing contacts, stipend contacts, etc.). Nicole agreed to look into options, including expanding the ASP D2L site.</p> <p>Next Meeting The next Center/RHPP Director meeting will be on 5/20/26 at noon via Zoom.</p>	Nicole Paredes
<p>Ended 12:36pm</p>		