

AHEC Rural Health & Healthcare Career Exploration Intern at Gibson Area Hospital & Health Services in Gibson City, Illinois

Now Recruiting Interns!

We are currently seeking motivated students for internship opportunities during the following semesters:

Spring 2027 • Summer 2027 • Fall 2027

Department: Area Health Education Center (AHEC)

Reports To: AHEC Director (Alexis Saathoff)

Position Type: Internship

Program Focus: Illinois AHEC & Rural Health Transformation (RHT) Program

Apply at or email:

<https://www.gibsonhospital.org/about-us/student-opportunities/profile/clinical-rotation-application>

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Position Summary

The **AHEC Rural Health & Healthcare Career Exploration Intern** will work under the direction of the AHEC Director to support healthcare workforce development, rural health initiatives, and healthcare career pipeline programming throughout the region.

This internship is designed to provide a student with hands-on experience in **public health, healthcare workforce development, rural health, community outreach, program planning, and student engagement.**

A primary focus of the internship will be supporting initiatives associated with the **Illinois Rural Health Transformation (RHT) Program**, particularly efforts aimed at developing a strong and sustainable rural healthcare workforce. The intern will assist with programs that introduce **K–12 students to healthcare careers, provide hands-on healthcare career exploration experiences, and encourage students to consider healthcare education and employment opportunities in rural communities.**

The intern will also work closely with the **East Central Illinois AHEC Director** and assist with AHEC programs, projects, outreach efforts, administrative responsibilities, and other initiatives as needed.

About the Rural Health Transformation Program

The **Rural Health Transformation (RHT) Program** is a federal initiative designed to strengthen healthcare access, quality, and outcomes in rural communities. Illinois's RHT efforts include initiatives focused on transforming rural healthcare delivery, overcoming geographic barriers to care, and **building a resilient rural healthcare workforce**.

As part of its workforce strategy, Illinois is investing in healthcare workforce expansion, training opportunities, and the development of a **Rural Health Education Pipeline**. These efforts are intended to expose students to healthcare careers, expand educational opportunities, strengthen connections between schools and healthcare organizations, and encourage individuals to pursue healthcare careers in rural communities.

The intern will have the opportunity to contribute directly to these workforce pipeline efforts through youth programming, healthcare career exploration, community partnerships, and program development.

Primary Internship Focus

K–12 Healthcare Career Exploration

The intern will assist in developing and implementing engaging healthcare career exploration opportunities for **elementary, junior high, and high school students**.

Activities may include:

- Developing age-appropriate healthcare career exploration activities.
- Creating hands-on activities that introduce students to different healthcare professions.
- Assisting with healthcare career presentations at schools and community events.
- Developing educational materials highlighting healthcare careers and educational pathways.
- Helping coordinate healthcare professionals to speak with or provide demonstrations for students.
- Supporting career fairs, school visits, classroom presentations, and other outreach events.
- Researching new and creative strategies for increasing student interest in rural healthcare careers.

Health Career Camps & Student Programs

The intern will assist with the planning, development, coordination, and evaluation of **health career camps and other student-focused healthcare workforce programs.**

Responsibilities may include:

- Assisting with the development of health career camp schedules and activities.
- Coordinating hands-on healthcare demonstrations and simulation activities.
- Communicating with healthcare professionals participating in camps or student events.
- Developing participant materials, schedules, presentations, and educational resources.
- Assisting with student registration and program communication.
- Supporting day-of-event coordination and implementation.
- Collecting student feedback and program evaluation data.
- Helping identify opportunities to expand or improve future health career camps and programs.

AHEC Program Support

The intern will assist the **East Central Illinois AHEC Director** with ongoing AHEC initiatives and responsibilities as needed.

This may include:

- Supporting healthcare career pathway and workforce development programs.
- Assisting with student job shadowing and experiential learning initiatives.
- Helping coordinate educational events, workshops, career fairs, and outreach activities.
- Developing presentations, flyers, educational materials, and outreach communications.
- Conducting research related to healthcare workforce needs and healthcare career pathways.
- Assisting with communication with students, schools, colleges, healthcare professionals, and community partners.
- Maintaining program records and participant information.

- Assisting with data collection, program evaluation, and grant reporting.
- Supporting special projects related to AHEC and Rural Health Transformation initiatives.
- Attending meetings, community events, or outreach activities when appropriate.
- Completing other AHEC-related tasks and projects as assigned by the AHEC Director.

Learning Opportunities

Through this internship, the student will gain practical experience in:

- Rural health and healthcare workforce development.
- Public health and community health programming.
- K–12 healthcare career education.
- Program planning, implementation, and evaluation.
- Healthcare career pipeline development.
- Grant-funded program implementation.
- Community and educational partnership development.
- Professional communication and outreach.
- Event and health career camp coordination.
- Data collection and program reporting.
- Working within a healthcare organization.
- Collaboration with healthcare professionals, schools, colleges, and community organizations.

The intern will also gain exposure to the challenges facing rural healthcare organizations and learn how workforce development and early career exposure can contribute to building a sustainable rural healthcare workforce.

Preferred Qualifications

Education

Current enrollment in an undergraduate or graduate program related to:

- Public Health
- Community Health
- Health Sciences
- Healthcare Administration
- Health Education/Health Promotion
- Social Work
- or another health/science related field.

Students interested in healthcare, education, rural health, or community outreach are encouraged to apply.

Skills & Characteristics

The ideal intern will:

- Have an interest in healthcare, public health, education, or rural communities.
- Enjoy working with children, adolescents, and young adults.
- Be comfortable communicating with students, educators, healthcare professionals, and community partners.
- Demonstrate strong organizational and time-management skills.
- Be dependable, professional, and willing to take initiative.
- Have strong written and verbal communication skills.
- Be comfortable using Microsoft Office programs.
- Be creative and interested in developing engaging student activities.
- Be able to manage multiple projects and meet deadlines.
- Maintain appropriate confidentiality and professional standards.

Additional Requirements

- Ability to travel to schools, healthcare facilities, community organizations, and program sites within the AHEC service area as needed.
- Some flexibility may be required for school programs, health career camps, community events, and other activities.

- Must comply with applicable hospital policies, confidentiality requirements, and program guidelines.

Internship Experience

This internship is intended to provide meaningful, project-based experience rather than observation alone. The intern will have opportunities to contribute to the development and implementation of programs that directly support the future rural healthcare workforce.

Whenever possible, internship projects will be tailored to the student's **academic requirements, professional interests, required internship hours, and career goals** while supporting the objectives of East Central Illinois AHEC and the Rural Health Transformation Program.