

Memorandum of Agreement

TCMC Regional Education Academy for Careers in Health-Higher Education Initiative (REACH-HEI)

The Commonwealth Medical College (TCMC) comprehensively and formally links its Regional Education Academy for Careers in Health – Higher Education Initiative (REACH-HEI) and Department of Social Justice and Diversity with Misericordia University (MU), Luzerne County Community College (LCC), East Stroudsburg University (ESU), and Hazleton Area High School (HA), Northeast Pennsylvania Area Health Education Center (NEPA AHEC), Scranton Temple Residency Program (STRP), Volunteers in Medicine (VIM) and East Stroudsburg High School South (ESHSS).

REACH-HEI's long term goal is to expand access to and completion of careers in the health and allied health professions by Northeast Pennsylvania's (NEPA) disadvantaged students who will most likely stay and serve the region's medically underserved communities and fill in the growing gap of primary care physicians and health professionals. REACH-HEI establishes a longitudinal pathway that will be continuously infused by linking, expanding and strengthening the partnership's enrichment, support and career development programs so that more economically disadvantaged NEPA students succeed academically and pursue health-related professional careers to address the increasing health professional shortages and reduce health care disparities.

Strong institutional and community partnerships have been at the foundation of TCMC's development beginning even before the admission of its first class. Our experiences and recent deliberations resulted in identifying key areas where efforts are strengthened and expanded by the meaningful partnerships and roles delineated herein. This partnership's principal objectives are academic achievement, academic and cultural enrichment, leadership development and motivation through service, mentoring, clinical and experiential learning, hands on skills learning, inter-professional team learning, and cultural competence. In addition, the partnership will expand career, educational, financial aid guidance for students, their families and their teachers.

As a signatory to this agreement, **each partner** commits its resources and staff to full participation in REACH-HEI, including, but not limited, to the following activities:

1. Identify and recruit REACH-HEI students;
2. Establish formal tracking systems of REACH-HEI students' academic, service and leadership progress;
3. Share expertise, resources, knowledge and experience in promoting academic excellence among educationally and economically disadvantaged students;
4. Promote articulation between REACH-HEI partners;
5. Actively participate in and attend bi-annual Advisory Council meetings with each partner hosting in rotation said meetings;
6. Actively participate in and attend program coordinating meetings to be held monthly;

7. Contribute data, data summaries, financial audits and any information required for annual reports and fiscal audits;
8. Maintain current academic, guidance and enrichment efforts;
9. Share educational best practices and host site visits from other REACH-HEI partners.

As a signatory to this agreement each partner also commits its staff and resources to specific responsibilities and roles with respect to this partnership as follows:

The Commonwealth Medical College (TCMC) will:

1. Serve as lead agency, administrative coordinator and fiscal contractor;
2. Employ and supervise core REACH-HEI staff and cultural competency faculty/staff;
3. Establish REACH-HEI enrichment programs, including the REACH-HEI summer and internship programs for undergraduate and high school students to serve at least 25 students in each program;
4. Prepare REACH-HEI brochures, annual reports and audits for funding agencies and President/Dean;
5. Prepare, coordinate and conduct joint cultural competency training program for REACH-HEI students;
6. Provide faculty/medical students/speakers bureau to conduct career, leadership, cultural competency workshop and classroom instruction on request by REACH-HEI partners;
7. Create Health Mentoring Pods to mentor REACH-HEI students;
8. Coordinate with NEPA AHEC to provide clinical exposure and volunteering opportunities and internships for REACH-HEI students.

Misericordia University (MU) will:

1. Provide science (including biology and physics), math (including statistics) and writing courses to support 25 REACH-HEI-2-College students to strengthen their academic success in college courses necessary to complete health profession or allied health degree;
2. Provide sessions that will expand students' knowledge of career opportunities, requirements and financial aid;
3. Coordinate with TCMC and its partners to provide REACH-HEI-2-College students with shadowing, service and internship experiences;
4. Share annual MCAT, GRE and other relevant exam reports and results of preparation courses with other students as well as REACH-HEI-2-College participants;
5. Actively recruit students to participate in REACH-HEI-2-College;
6. Maintain tracking, evaluation and other information as required by REACH-HEI-2-College.

Luzerne County Community College (LCC) will:

1. Provide science (including biology and physics), math (including statistics) and writing courses to REACH-HEI-2-College students to strengthen their academic success in college courses necessary to complete health profession or allied health degree;
2. Provide sessions that will expand students' knowledge of career opportunities, requirements and financial aid;

3. Coordinate with TCMC and its partners to provide REACH-HEI-2-College students shadowing, service and internship experiences;
4. Share annual MCAT, GRE and other relevant exam reports and results of preparation courses with other students as well as REACH-HEI participants;
5. Actively recruit and refer students to REACH-HEI-2-College program at MU and other partners to pursue health or health related baccalaureate and post-baccalaureate degrees;
6. Maintain tracking, evaluation and other information as required by REACH-HEI-2-College.

East Stroudsburg University (ESU) in AY 2012-13 will:

1. Provide science (including biology and physics-define), math (including statistics) and writing courses to support 25 REACH-HEI-2-College students to strengthen their academic success in college courses necessary to complete health profession or allied health degree;
2. Provide sessions that will expand students' knowledge of career opportunities, requirements and financial aid;
3. Coordinate with TCMC and its partners to provide REACH-HEI-2-College students with shadowing, service and internship experiences;
4. Share annual MCAT, GRE and other relevant exam reports and results of preparation courses with other students as well as REACH-HEI-2-College participants;
5. Actively recruit students to participate in REACH-HEI-2-College;
6. Maintain tracking, evaluation and other information as required by REACH-HEI-2-College.

Scranton High School (SHS) will:

1. Refer students to REACH-HEI programs at LCC, MU and REACH-HEI summer school programs according to their interests in health professions, academic needs and preparation;
2. Host study skills workshops for REACH-HEI students;
3. Host annual REACH-HEI parent, teacher and guidance counselor workshops on financial aid, health careers and health and science enrichment programs (REACH-HEI after school);
4. Host and share experiences of medical students as teachers/mentor/tutors;
5. Work with Health Mentor Pod team, REACH-HEI and NEPA AHEC to provide students with primary care and inter-professional health care exposure and mentorship.

Northeast Pennsylvania Area Health Education Center (NEPA AHEC) will:

1. Facilitate visits to federally qualified health centers, medical centers, hospitals and private practitioners for at least 25 REACH-HEI-2-College participants each year;
2. Conduct reflection sessions, post-field or shadowing experience to further students' understanding of primary care;
3. Coordinate one 90-minute interactive, hands-on Art Therapy lesson to introduce REACH-HEI-2-College participants to careers in mental health;
4. Mentor students in the exploration and preparation for careers in health.

5. Coordinate interactive, hands-on program on at least one “hot” health career, such as forensic pathologist or environmental epidemiologist, to stimulate excitement and more interest in the wide possibilities of health careers;
6. Conduct “Your Real First Job: Volunteering” program to prepare students to be excellent volunteers.

Scranton Temple Residency Program (STRP) will:

1. Provide clinical observation and “shadowing” experiences for REACH-HEI participants;
2. Participate in Health Mentoring Pods and provide mentoring for REACH-HEI participants;
3. Offer research and community service opportunities for interested REACH-HEI students;
4. Participate in REACH-HEI conferences and workshops to promote health care careers;
5. Host REACH-HEI-2-College field trips and summer internships.

East Stroudsburg Area School District (ESHS) will:

1. Refer students to REACH-HEI programs according to their interests in health professions, academic needs and preparation;
2. Host annual REACH-HEI parent, teacher and guidance counselor workshops on financial aid, health careers and health and science enrichment programs (REACH-HEI after school);
3. Host and share experiences of medical students as teachers/mentor/tutors;
4. Work with Health Mentor Pod team, REACH-HEI and NEPA AHEC to provide students with primary care and inter-professional health care exposure and mentorship.

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