



# FACTS

## Southeastern Illinois Rural Health (SEIgrow)

### WHO ARE WE?

SEIgrow is a network of organizations that have come together to support efforts and activities that allows southeastern Illinois to “Grow Their Own” rural health professionals.

### VISION

To sustain a network that creates, facilitates and evaluates health career awareness and opportunities in order to grow and retain a workforce to meet the needs of Southeastern Illinois.

### ACTIVITIES

#### Sharing Health Occupations Parent Tour (S.H.O.P.) 2011

The S.H.O.P. Tour was a free event held in the evening at Hamilton Memorial Hospital in McLeansboro, Illinois for high school students and their parents to explore opportunities in health careers. 46 people attended the event.

#### Health Careers Talks

SEIgrow has been conducting Health Careers Talks in middle and high schools in the 13 county area since 2010. 18 Health Careers Talks have been provided to 434 students. 11 health professionals conducted the talks. Talks took place at Hamilton High School, East Richland High School, Oblong High School, Lawrenceville High School, Galatia High School, Eldorado High School, Newton Community High School, Grayville High School, West Richland High School and North Clay High School.

74.5% of the students who responded either agreed or strongly agreed that the talk increased their interest in a health career.

#### Rural Health Careers Camp

SEIgrow, in partnership with Southeast Illinois AHEC and Frontier Community College hosted a one day Rural Health Careers Camp for high school students. 30 students attended. Over 90% of the students who attended rated their overall camp experience as either good or excellent. Camp activities included labs in anatomy, SIMS, EMS, radiology and physical therapy. There was also a session on financial aid for college.

### KEY ORGANIZATIONS

- Illinois Critical Access Hospital Network (ICAHN)
  - Hamilton Memorial Hospital
  - Fairfield Memorial Hospital
  - Lawrence County Health Department
  - Frontier Community College
  - Illinois Department of Public Health, Center for Rural Health
  - National Center for Rural Health Professions, University of Illinois
  - Harrisburg Medical Center
  - Richland Memorial Hospital
- And countless rural health professionals who have given a Health Careers Talk and/or allowed a student to shadow them in their practice.

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### Shadowing

SEIgrow has coordinated 99 shadowing opportunities for high school and college students in 2011 and 2012. Shadowing took place in pharmacies, hospitals, health departments, veterinary clinics and physician offices across the 13 county area.

### 3-Day Rural Health Experience (RHE)

The RHE is a 3 day immersion experience for college students and graduate and professional students in their 1st and 2nd years of their health professions programs. Students learn about the social and health characteristics, needs, and resources of a specific rural community, understand the role and responsibilities of different healthcare providers in a rural community and reflect on a future career as a healthcare provider in a rural community and potential interest in location of RHE experience as a future career location.

- ✦ 7 students participated in a RHE in 2012
- ✦ 3 students at Hamilton Memorial Hospital
- ✦ 2 students at Fairfield Memorial Hospital
- ✦ 1 student at Richland Memorial Hospital
- ✦ 1 students at Harrisburg Medical Center

### Student Comments

- ✦ Really great to see how the different health professions worked together.
- ✦ Enjoyed following the different professions, what their day consisted of and how they worked with other health professionals.
- ✦ Able to see a lot of different aspects of the hospital.
- ✦ Didn't know prior to this experience how the disciplines worked together in a hospital setting.

### 6-Week Rural Interdisciplinary Health Professions Preceptorship

This past summer, SEIgrow hosted their first 6 week Rural Interdisciplinary Health Professions Preceptorship. The Rural Interdisciplinary Health Professions Preceptorship provides an interdisciplinary educational experience in a rural healthcare setting for 6 weeks. Four health professions students representing the disciplines of medicine, physician-assistant, public health and cardiac rehab were selected to participate. Harrisburg Medical Center in Harrisburg, Illinois was the host site. Students were able to experience roughly 12 days of shadowing with a variety of different healthcare providers including primary care physicians, pharmacists, inpatient and outpatient mental health, public health professionals, dieticians, physical therapists, etc. The students participated in a community service learning project with the Egyptian County Health Department. They created a Radon Awareness Campaign for the health department.