The Eastern Area Health Education Center is one of nine AHECs in the North Carolina AHEC Program that link North Carolina’s four academic health science centers, community hospitals and health agencies. Eastern AHEC’s primary university affiliation is with East Carolina University.

The mission of the NC AHEC Program is to meet the state’s health and health workforce needs by providing educational programs in partnership with academic institutions, health care agencies, and other organizations committed to improving the health of the people of North Carolina.

AHEC educational programs and information services are targeted toward:

- Improving the distribution and retention of health care providers, with special emphasis on primary care and prevention.
- Increasing the representation of minorities and disadvantaged populations in all health care disciplines.
- Enhancing the quality of care and improving health care outcomes.
- Addressing the health care needs of underserved communities and populations.

Eastern AHEC is an independent non-profit organization. Partnerships and collaborations are an integral part of its culture and are vital to the success of its mission. Eastern AHEC collaborates extensively with regional universities, community colleges, hospitals, health departments, mental health agencies, health care providers and many others to serve the needs of the region.

Counties Served
Beaufort, Bertie, Camden, Carteret, Chowan, Craven, Currituck, Dare, Gates, Greene, Hertford, Hyde, Jones, Lenoir, Martin, Onslow, Pamlico, Pasquotank, Perquimans, Pitt, Tyrrell, Washington and Wayne.

Part of the North Carolina AHEC Program
HIGHLIGHTS FROM THE 2012-2013 ACADEMIC YEAR

Continuing education for health care professionals
- 1,638 regional and on-site programs in Allied Health, Dentistry, Medicine, Mental Health, Nursing, Pharmacy and Public Health
- 34,373 people attended these programs
  - 1,371 were CME regional and on-site programs, offering 1,655 credits of AMA PRA Category 1 Credit™ to 25,629 participants, the majority were physicians practicing in the region
  - Allied Health provided 36 programs for 1,035 participants
  - Public Health provided 13 programs for 385 participants
  - Mental Health provided 72 programs to 3,032 participants
  - Nursing provided 131 programs to 3,899 participants
  - Pharmacy provided 9 programs to 259 participants
  - Dental Health offered 6 programs to 134 participants

Community-based student experiences
- Allied Health
  - Supported 406 student months of clinical education in Occupational Therapy, Physical Therapy, and Clinical Laboratory Sciences for the ECU College of Allied Health Sciences
- Nursing
  - Supported nursing off-campus clinical education totaling 1,856 undergraduate student months and 490 graduate student months in 302 agencies
- Pharmacy
  - Coordinated 126 student months of clinical rotations for PharmD students
- Office of Regional Primary Care Education (ORPCE)
  - Facilitated 329 months of student placements for medicine, nurse practitioner, nurse midwifery and physician assistant students at 160 teaching sites
  - Provided housing for 283 student months (5,655 nights) in 13 EAHEC housing sites

Library Outreach Services
- 694 registered AHEC Digital Library users in the region registered 4,264 AHEC Digital Library Portal uses

Residency Training
Eastern AHEC supported 55 residents completing training in Family Medicine, Pediatrics, General Internal Medicine, OB/GYN, Surgery and 32 Psychiatric Medicine residents (General Psychiatry, Internal/Psychiatry and Child and Adolescent).

Community collaborations
- Public Health collaborated with ECU Department of Public Health and Duke Endowment to provide education and career development for Long Term Care professionals in NC
- 4th Annual Eastern Regional Patient Safety and Quality Symposium sponsored by CarolinaEast and Vidant Health Systems, EAHEC & Brody OCME reached 394 health professionals
- Collaborated with Carolina Geriatric Education Center and Dare County to spread use of the Oatgo Exercise Program in the county

Workforce development and training
- 19 RN Refresher students enrolled this year with a total of 182 nurses completing requirements to return to practice
- Individuals from 57 agencies partnered with Nursing Education to plan and implement regional/community based CE programs
- Youth Health Service Corps (YHSC) was ranked 3rd in the nation for number of volunteer hours completed by student participants
- Allied Health CE programs reached healthcare professionals in 51 counties in NC
- Mental Health Education expanded service area to include Area L AHEC’s 5 counties
- Mental Health developed the 30-hour Clinical Supervision Intensive Training Program to roll out in 2013

Special or New Initiatives
- Regional Extension Center Consultants provided services to 195 practices with 631 Eligible Providers to assist in reaching meaningful use (MU) and coaching practices to improve clinical care for patients
- Public Health Director linked a rural primary care office with the local health department to build capacity and assist with PCMH (patient centered medical home) designation criteria for self-management for chronic disease (obesity)
- The Associate Dean for Brody Office of CME (BSOM OCME) received the Robert Raszkowski, MD, PhD ACCME Hero Award for volunteer service to ACCME
- BSOM OCME received 6 years accreditation with commendation from the Accreditation Council for CME as a provider of AMA PRA Category 1 Credit™
- The high fidelity simulator provided to Brody School of Medicine: used by 4,272 participants during 479 simulation sessions
- EAHEC now provides online handouts, evaluations and certificates