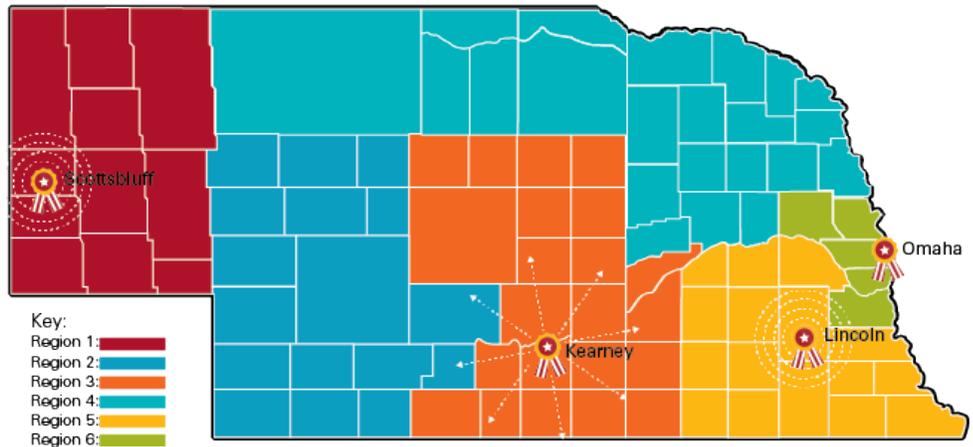


BHECN Ambassador Career Engagement Awards

Since 2012, the BHECN Ambassador Program has hosted conferences and presentations to introduce high school and college students to careers in behavioral health professions.

In June 2017, BHECN launched the Ambassador Career Engagement Awards, awarding funds for community groups to introduce local youth to behavioral health professions through experiences closer to home.



Ambassador Career Engagement Award program locations

BHECN has selected five programs for funding this year to be completed by May 31, 2019. The recipients are offering programming to educate Nebraska students primarily in rural or underserved communities. BHECN will track college enrollment and provide additional mentorship and support to students who enter programs to become licensed mental health professionals in Nebraska.

2018 Ambassador Career Engagement Award Recipients:

Increasing Awareness of Behavioral Health Professions

Location: Panhandle area of Nebraska (Scottsbluff)

Partners: Western Nebraska Community College and Region 1 Behavioral Health Authority

Overview: This project will feature a one-day conference to expose interested high school students and community college students to behavioral health careers and mental health stigma. The event will feature morning and afternoon breakout sessions, a keynote speaker, and display tables hosted by local agencies who provide behavioral health services in the Panhandle area.

Project coordinator: Carrie Howton, MSED, LIMHP, Instructor

HOSA (Health Occupation Students of America) Behavioral Health Science Experience

Location: Kearney, Nebraska (participation open to HOSA students across the state)

Partners: Nebraska HOSA, University of Nebraska Kearney, Nebraska Department of Education, and HOSA Chapters across Nebraska

Overview: This project will expose students to careers in behavioral health and provide networking opportunities with current and future behavioral health professionals. Secondary and post-

secondary students across the state will attend a conference, including a keynote speaker, and breakout sessions led by current behavioral health professionals.

Project coordinator: Kori Jensen, Nebraska HOSA State Advisor

Behavioral Health Conference

Location: Lincoln, Nebraska

Partners: CenterPointe

Overview: This project will include a full day conference targeting college students in Lincoln from Doane University, Nebraska Wesleyan, Southeast Community College, Union College, and the University of Nebraska-Lincoln. The conferences will feature panels and speakers from various disciplines in the behavioral health field. Students will be able to talk to career consultants and counselors about their interests and educational routes to meet their career goals, and college students will be able to meet with employers about current job opportunities and internships.

Project coordinator: Luke Reiff, Human Resources Manager, CenterPointe

Metro Area Teen Health Summit: Securing a Future for Everyone (SAFE) Youth Summit

Location: Omaha, Nebraska

Partners: Omaha North High STEM Magnet School, North Omaha Community Care Council (NOCCC), and UNMC Center for Reducing Health Disparities.

Overview: This project consists of a day-long summit which seeks to promote health and well-being to teens living in the Metro area with special focus on underrepresented and underserved junior high and high school students. It will focus on health and safety of teens recognizing the need to address mental health through discussion and action. Activities will be designed to introduce students to topics related to holistic well-being, including sexual health, relationships, school safety, mental health, behavioral health, and exposure to behavioral health care careers to diversify the current behavioral health workforce.

Project coordinator: Rev. Portia Cavitt, M.Div., Clair Memorial United Methodist Church, and NOCCC Vice President and committee chair of the Youth Outreach Committee

Corn This Way: LGBTQ Youth Leadership Summit

Location: Omaha, Nebraska

Partners: GLSEN Omaha

Overview: Each year, Nebraska loses several LGBTQ young professionals to the coasts due to feeling unsafe and unable to be themselves in their work environments. Corn This Way will tackle this problem head-on by showing youth and young adults career fields in which they can enact change and better the lives of LGBTQ individuals in Nebraska. The day will consist of a one-hour open plenary, four forty-five minute breakout sessions (with four presentation options per session), and a one-hour closing plenary. Breakout sessions specifically discussing behavioral health careers will be incorporated as break out options throughout the day. Informational flyers will be provided to each attendee.

Project coordinator: Sam Carwyn, GLSEN Omaha Chairperson

For more information about the BHECN Ambassador Career Engagement Awards, contact Ann Kraft: akraft@unmc.edu, 402-552-7638

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