

Dental Grant Expands Recruitment Efforts

West Central Missouri AHEC has received a grant from the Delta Dental Foundation of Missouri to increase the number of students interested in oral health careers by providing activities that expose more underrepresented and disadvantaged students to careers in dentistry. The project aims to address the growing demand for oral health professionals and improve the overall quality of oral healthcare services delivered to individuals and communities. The grant will help West Central AHEC provide career exploration activities to students, outreach and education in rural and underserved communities, provide Dental Admissions Testing (DAT) PREP for pre-dental undergraduate students, provide scholarships to students in dental training programs and collaborate with HCC Network to provide a dental assisting training course.



AHEC Scholar, **Precious Hollins**, (far left) discusses dental school with high school students on a panel with other UMKC Dental students.



Richie Bigham, Assistant Dean for Student Programs at UMKC School of Dentistry, speaks on dental and hygiene programs.



Delta Dental funding is supporting a dental assisting training class at HCC Network. Students completed classroom training this fall and will begin clinicals in the HCC clinics this spring.



Students learned how to take dental impressions from third and fourth-year dental students from UMKC.

Executive Director:
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Advisory Board:
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School of Dentistry*

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Cleveland University

Eric Johnson

*University of Missouri – Kansas City
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Physician Assistant Program*

Karen Doyle

University of Central Missouri

Welcome Cohort 6 AHEC Scholars!

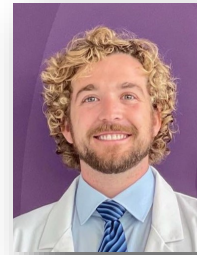
West Central Missouri AHEC welcomes nineteen amazing new health professions students into the newest cohort of AHEC Scholars! These students join eleven Cohort 5 students who are starting their second year in the program. We are excited to have such a great group of students with a passion for learning how to better serve rural and urban underserved communities. Students in the program will complete 80 hours of didactic and experiential activities each year of the program.



Abigail Nardi
Kansas City University
Medical School



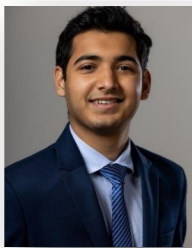
Ejiroghene Davis-Okarevu
Kansas City University
Medical School



Mason Tuttle
Kansas City University
Medical School



Margaret Capotosto
Rockhurst University
Occupational Therapy



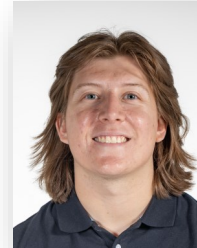
Atharva Desai
University of Missouri
Kansas City
School of Medicine



Cooper Basshan
University of Missouri
Kansas City
School of Medicine



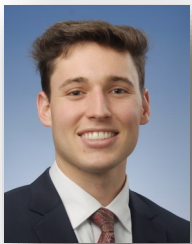
Sean Nguyen
University of Missouri
Kansas City
School of Medicine



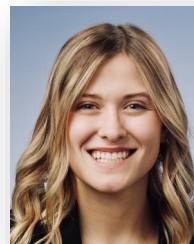
Dominic Diaz
Rockhurst University
Occupational Therapy



Grace Hoffman
University of Missouri
Kansas City
School of Dentistry



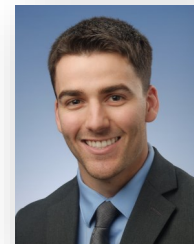
Jonathan Amijo
University of Missouri
Kansas City
School of Dentistry



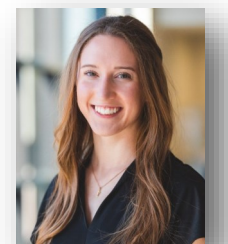
Katie Jennings
University of Missouri
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School of Dentistry



Kylee Townsend
University of Missouri
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Kyler Simoncic
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Alexandra Dunlop
University of Missouri
Kansas City
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Brittany Raines
University of Missouri
Kansas City
School of Dentistry



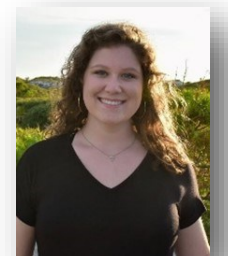
Claire Rogers
University of Missouri
Kansas City
School of Dentistry



Christina Tran
University of Missouri
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Deannah Clift
University of Missouri
Kansas City
School of Dentistry

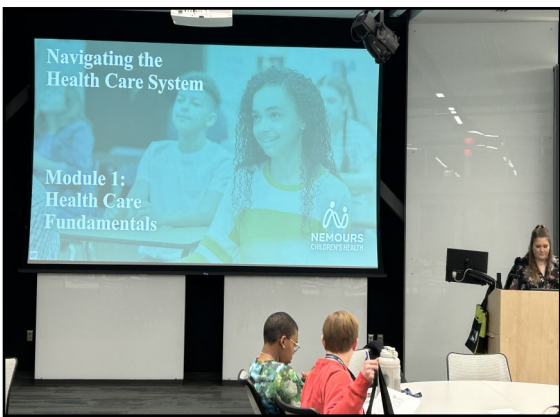
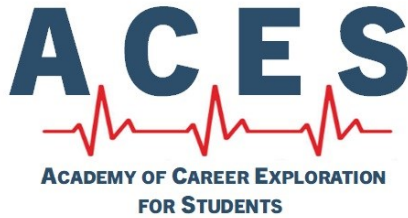
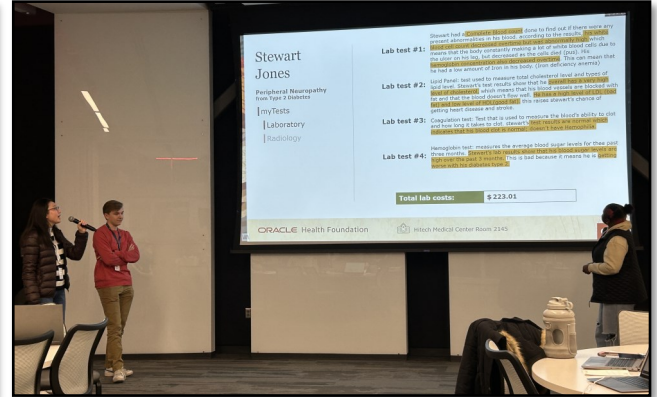


Skyler Hooper
University of Missouri
Kansas City
School of Dentistry

2023-24 ACES Pipeline Program

WCMO AHEC welcomed 21 new high school students into the ACES program this fall. They join 20 returning students for a class total of 41. This program provides high school students with an opportunity to explore and prepare for a career in the healthcare field. During the fall workshops, students received training in HIPAA and Health Literacy, talked with former ACES students now in undergraduate classes, participated in an interdisciplinary team collaboration with patient case studies, in addition to learning about careers in dentistry, surgical technology, and prosthetics. This year's class represent the following high schools:

- ◆ Blue Springs High School
- ◆ Blue Springs South High School
- ◆ Center High School
- ◆ Center Place Restoration School
- ◆ Lee's Summit North High School
- ◆ Odessa High School
- ◆ Pembroke Hill High School
- ◆ Van Horn High School
- ◆ Raytown South High school
- ◆ Raymore-Peculiar High School
- ◆ Warrensburg High School
- ◆ William Chrisman High School
- ◆ Truman High School



AHEC is supported by the Health Resources and Services Administration (HRSA) of the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) and the Missouri Department of Health and Human Services (DHSS) and local support.