



What is the YHSC-AmeriCorps Division Program?

Created by the Connecticut Area Health Education Center (AHEC) Program in 2004, the Youth Health Service Corps (YHSC) was piloted in CT's four regional centers, located in Bridgeport, Hartford, Waterbury and Willimantic. The intent of the pilot was to inspire disadvantaged students to fulfill their dream of becoming a health care professional through meaningful community service. The Northwestern CT AHEC has worked to expand this program nationally to 24 states through the pipeline of AHEC's across the country.

In 2010, Northwestern CT AHEC received a three year AmeriCorps State grant to expand the YHSC program in Connecticut by introducing the YHSC-AmeriCorps Division Program. The purpose of YHSC-AmeriCorps Division Program is to engage AmeriCorps members in direct service and capacity-building as a YHSC Coordinator in their local AHEC. AHEC's will host AmeriCorps members serving full-time for ten months. AmeriCorps members will mobilize YHSC members, as well as community volunteers.

The YHSC-AmeriCorps Division's class of 2010 was comprised of 14 diverse AmeriCorps members working in high schools across the state. AmeriCorps members served as YHSC Coordinators engaging high school students in the YHSC curriculum, giving YHSC members hands on opportunities in the health care settings through health related service learning projects, as well as increasing awareness of the college pathway. Through the YHSC-AmeriCorps Division program, AmeriCorps members shaped this new and innovative program by providing YHSC members with additional support services such as mentoring, tutoring, home visits and one on one interaction. Within the first two months of the 2010 YHSC-AmeriCorps Division Class, AmeriCorps members had already recruited over 380 high school students in 16 high schools throughout Bridgeport, Hartford, Waterbury, and Willimantic.

For more information on how to become an AmeriCorps member with the YHSC-AmeriCorps Division, please contact Celia Tvrdik at (203)758-1110 or by email at ctvrdik@nwctahec.org. For more information on how to bring the YHSC-AmeriCorps Division program to your local community, please contact Patricia Harrity at (203)758-1110 or by email at pharrity@nwctahec.org.

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The Connecticut AHEC Program was established in 1995 by the Connecticut General Assembly, and received its initial federal funding from Human Resources and Services Administration (HRSA) in 1997. Northwestern CT AHEC, established in 1998, is a 501-C-3 non-profit agency.

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