

## WHO IS MORH/AHEC?

The Montana Office of Rural Health (MORH) and Area Health Education Center (AHEC) are two federal-state partnership grant programs whose mission is to support efforts and **improve healthcare across Montana** through public/private partnerships and initiatives in rural health development. Programmatic activities include workforce development, pathways programs, and technical assistance programs. These statewide programs are delivered through the Program Office based at the Mark & Robyn Jones College of Nursing at Montana State University in Bozeman, and five (5) regional AHEC centers: Eastern (Billings), North Eastern (Miles City), Western (Missoula), and North and South Central (Helena).

## 2024 PARTNERSHIP PROGRAMS

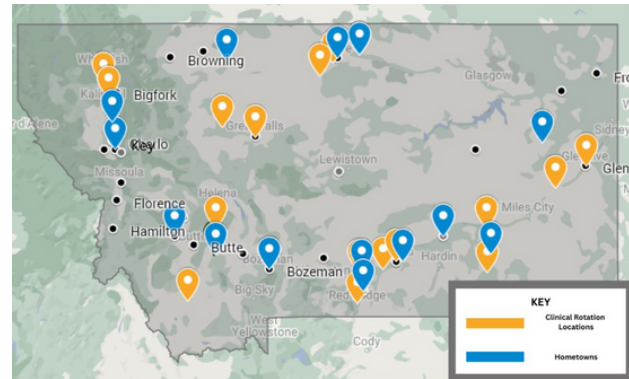
### Advanced Nurse Education Workforce (ANEW) Program

HRSA funded; 7/1/2023 - 6/30/2027

**Goal:** Increased number of primary care family nurse practitioners and psychiatric mental health nurse practitioners who are academically and clinically prepared for the unique challenges of practice in rural and underserved communities, thus increasing access to primary care in Montana's rural and underserved communities.

**PI:** Dr. Stacy Stellflug

**Notable Impact:** Since the first round of funding in 2019, we have had 37 DNP (9 PMH and 28 FNP) students participate in ANEW. 100% of graduates from ANEW have stayed in Montana to practice and 87% are practicing in rural and/or underserved populations.



ANEW grant recipient locations for the 2023-2024 Academic Year

### Behavioral Health Education Training Program (BHWET) Professional Track - East

HRSA funded; 7/1/2021 - 6/30/2025



BHWET-East grant recipient clinical locations for the 2022-2023 Academic Year

**Goal:** Increased access to quality and culturally appropriate behavioral health services in eastern and north central Montana through a partnership between MRJCON DNP-Psych/Mental Health Track, MSU Billings College of Health Professions and Science, and the Billings Clinic Psychiatry Residency Training Program.

**PIs:** Dr. Stacy Stellflug and Dr. Tracy Hellem

**Notable Impact:** Since 2021, we have trained 11 DNP-PMH students, 17 MSU-Billings Master of Science in Rehabilitation and Mental Health Counseling students, and 6 Billings Clinic psychiatry residents. Many graduates are working in rural and underserved parts of Montana, including Poplar, Cut Bank, Stevensville, and Big Sandy.

# Nurse Education, Practice, Quality and Retention Mobile Health Training Program (NEPQR MHTP)

HRSA funded; 7/1/2022 - 6/30/2026

**Goal:** Establish or expand nurse-led mobile units to provide care to the target vulnerable populations in rural and underserved areas.

**PI:** Dr. Laura Larsson

**Notable Impact:** In a 2023 survey of program participants (n=166), 90.4% of respondents (n=150) reported being confident or very confident in their ability to provide care to rural, medically underserved, and vulnerable populations after participation in the program, compared to only 13.9% (n=23) feeling confident or very confident in this area prior to their participation in the program. In Spring 2024, there were over 245 students being trained through the MHTP.

# Nurse Education, Practice, Quality and Retention Clinical Faculty & Preceptor Academy (NEPQR CFPA)

HRSA funded; 9/30/2022 - 9/29/2026

**Goal:** MORH/AHEC, the Colorado Center for Nursing Excellence (CNE), and Schools of Nursing at the University of Colorado, Montana State University, North Dakota State University, South Dakota State University, Southern Utah University, and the Wyoming Center for Nursing have partnered to create a clinical nursing faculty & preceptor academy (CFPA) for the Rocky Mountain region to provide training and tools to strengthen and support our clinical nursing faculty and preceptors working in rural and frontier parts of the mountain west.

**PI:** Dr. Molly Secor

**Notable Activities:** Training available through three modalities of education: Clinical Scholars Program, Preceptor 101, and the asynchronous MT AHEC Course; host quarterly regional lunch and learns; stipends available for preceptor professional development for all six states

# Nurse Education, Practice, Quality and Retention Simulation Education Training Program (NEPQR SET)

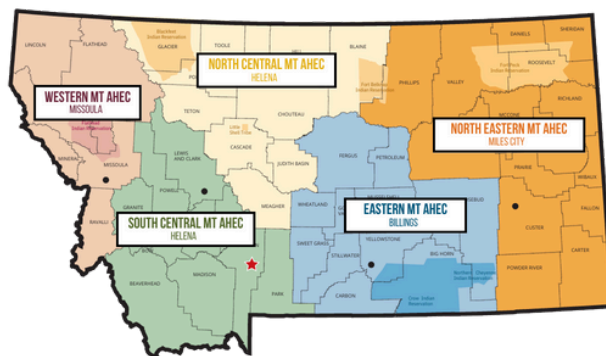
HRSA funded; 9/30/2023 - 9/29/2026

**Goal:** Educate and graduate baccalaureate nurses with the capacity to effectively serve to improve the health outcomes of the state's rural, frontier, and medically underserved populations through the enhancement of MRJCON'S current slate of simulated clinical education experiences.

**PI:** Dr. Carrie Miller

**Notable Activities:** Development of the Montana Simulation Champions Network; hosted IPE trauma virtual sim for AHEC Scholars in Spring 2024; enhancing simulation using trained standardized patients

## MONTANA AHEC REGIONS



### MORH/AHEC CONTACT INFORMATION

**DIRECTOR:**

Kailyn Mock

Phone: 406-994-7709

[kailyn.mock@montana.edu](mailto:kailyn.mock@montana.edu)

[healthinfo.montana.edu](http://healthinfo.montana.edu)