

Date: 1/21/2021

Brad Gibbens  
Director ND AHEC  
Center for Rural Health UND SMHS  
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Grand Forks, ND 58202-9037

Katelyn Brinkman  
Eastern AHEC Director  
Mayville State University  
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Mayville, ND 58257

Denise Andress  
Western AHEC Director  
PO Box 615  
109 S Main Street  
Hettinger, ND 58639

Dear Mr. Gibbens, Ms. Brinkman, and Ms. Andress,

On behalf of Sanford Health, we are writing this letter to support the North Dakota Area Health Education Center (ND AHEC) Program, the Eastern and Western North Dakota Area Health Education Centers (Eastern ND AHEC, Western ND AHEC). The ND AHEC/Eastern/Western ND AHEC focuses on providing support across the health care workforce pipeline to address health care workforce shortages through distribution, diversity, supply and quality health care professionals.

Sanford Health supports the ND Area Health Education Center for a number of reasons. First of all, we are first and foremost, a rural healthcare system. Our support of the ND AHEC Program serves the state and region on many levels. It is important to Sanford Health to foster an interest in health care on many levels.

Secondly, from the standpoint of strengthening our own workforce, it is vital to instill an interest in the numerous different opportunities that are available in the healthcare field. If Sanford Health can help initiate that interest at an early level, the opportunities that we can expose our younger high school age students to, will only benefit the state of North Dakota and our rural communities.

Our partnership with ND AHEC is a product of our commitment to growing the interest in healthcare opportunities in the communities we serve and to inspire local high school students to seek the impactful openings that may await them in the communities in which they have already grown up in.

Sanford Health believes in growing and inspiring our own workforce, and ND AHEC is a big part of allowing that approach to come to fruition. We strongly support North Dakota's commitment to the vision and mission of ND AHEC.

Respectfully,



Jayne Gust  
Director of Sanford Health Community Relations  
Fargo and Bismarck Regions  
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