

**BISMARCK**



**HIGH SCHOOL**

1/20/21

**Brad Gibbens**  
Director ND AHEC  
Center for Rural Health UND SMHS  
1301 N. Columbia Road, STOP 9037  
Grand Forks, ND 58202-9037

**Katelyn Brinkman**  
Eastern AHEC Director  
Mayville State University  
330 3<sup>rd</sup> St NE  
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,

I am writing this letter on behalf of the Bismarck HOSA chapter. I am writing to support the North Dakota Area Health Education Center (AHEC) Program, the Eastern and Western North Dakota Area Health Education Centers (Eastern ND AHEC, Western ND AHEC). The ND AHEC/Eastern/Western AHEC focuses on providing support across the healthcare workforce pipeline to address healthcare workforce shortages through distribution, diversity, supply and quality healthcare professionals. This is more crucial than ever due to the current healthcare worker shortage and pandemic crisis.

As an advisor, I can say that HOSA has had an enormous impact on students who wish to pursue a career in healthcare. Bismarck High school had its first HOSA chapter in 2012 thanks to the partnership with ND AHEC program. Since the start of the program, Bismarck High alone has had hundreds of students impacted through the HOSA program. HOSA is an opportunity for students to develop leadership skills and learn more about medical professions. Many students have participated in hands on learning opportunities that the state and fall leadership HOSA conferences provide. Several ND students have even earned national scholarships through HOSA which has helped to launch their education into a health career. Many of the students who are involved in HOSA go on to pursue a career path in the medical world, and this is needed more now than ever. HOSA has had a positive impact on many students in my school and none of this would be possible without our partnership with NDAHEC.

In closing, we would like to say that Bismarck High School HOSA is pleased to continue the relationship that is beneficial to us and the North Dakota Area Education Center and the Eastern/Western Area Education Centers. We believe that this support is worthy and meets the needs of future healthcare students, professional providers, rural communities and quality healthcare for North Dakota.

Sincerely,

**Heather Frey**  
Medical Careers Instructor  
HOSA advisor  
Bismarck High School



*U.S. Department of Education National Blue Ribbon School of Excellence 1999-2000*

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