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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 3rd St NE
Mayville, ND 58257

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

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

On behalf of Spectra Health, a federally qualified health center located in NE North Dakota, I submit this letter of support for 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.

In 2019 ND AHEC partnered with Spectra Health and the Iowa College of Dentistry to provide housing for two 4th year dental students that lead to 366 patients receiving care. Both students who received financial support from ND AHEC program were from North Dakota and had intent to return to the state upon graduation. One student that participated in the student rotation was successfully hired at Spectra Health upon graduation from the Iowa College of Dentistry.

Spectra Health whole heartedly supports a continued relationship that is beneficial to the health center and is in direct alignment with the goals of ND AHEC and the Eastern/Western North Dakota Area Health Education Centers. We sincerely believe ND AHEC programming is worthy and meets the needs of future health care students and professional providers, rural communities and quality health for North Dakota.

Warm Regards,

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read "Mara Jiran", with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Mara Jiran, CEO
Spectra Health
701.757.2802

