

# THREE MHS STUDENTS SELECTED FOR HEALTHCARE INTERNSHIP

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Hanah Atkins



Mackenzi Elliott



Rhionna Harris

McDowell - Project PROMISE (Providing Rural Opportunities in Medicine through Inspiring Service and Education) selected three high school seniors from McDowell High School who show authentic interest in a healthcare profession.

The three students selected are Hanah Atkins, Mackenzie Elliott and Rhionna Harris.

The program supports the students by providing exposure to real healthcare experiences and offers mentorship throughout the program. Students who are accepted are enrolled in an internship for two hours Monday through Friday where they will complete a shadowing experience with a wide variety of healthcare providers in McDowell County, all while receiving school credit through the careers and technical education program.

The Mountain Area Health Education Center (MAHEC) is assisting with the project as part of its WNC Rural Health Initiative. Bryan McClure, Regional Manager for Yancey, Mitchell and McDowell Counties, is directing Project PROMISE with the coordination help of Misty Cox, a MAHEC MedServ Fellow and recent UNC graduate.

“MAHEC is proud of our pipeline programs and we are excited to continue the Project PROMISE program in McDowell County,” said Dr. Jeff Heck, MAHEC President and CEO. “By exposing these high school students to health careers and giving them the tools to successfully advance through academics, we hope they will ultimately choose to stay in a rural community and deliver much needed healthcare services to that region.”

MAHEC recently met with Amy Haynes, Lanie Honeycutt, Nick Byrd and Ginger Webb of the McDowell Health Coalition to collaborate around efforts underway in the county and also around ways to help tie the PROMISE students to current projects that are being conducted by the Coalition.

If you would like more information about Project PROMISE, visit [www.wncpromise.org](http://www.wncpromise.org). Students interested in the program can obtain an application from their Careers and Technical Education (CTE) coordinators at their school. If you are a physician or healthcare provider interested in having students shadow you, please contact Bryan McClure at (828) 767-0066, Bryan.McClure@mahec.net, or Misty Cox, Misty.Cox@mahec.net.