



## NEWS RELEASE

**Media Contact:** Jennifer Maurer  
External Communications Manager  
[Jennifer.maurer@mahec.net](mailto:Jennifer.maurer@mahec.net)  
828-257-4445

### **Health Careers Conference Expected to Draw More than 400 Students from Across WNC**

*Registration deadline is Sept. 21 for free daylong conference at UNCA's Sherrill Center on Oct. 9*

Sept. 17, 2018—More than 400 high school students from across the region are expected to explore health career and learning opportunities at the 19th Annual Health Careers Education Awareness Conference (HCEAC) and Don C. Locke Health Career Expo on Oct. 9 at UNC Asheville's Sherrill Center.

Doors will open at 7:45 am for check-in and refreshments, and the conference will run from 8:30 am to 2:00 pm with lunch provided.

HCEAC provides an opportunity for students to engage and interact with professionals from more than 40 different health careers to gain inspiration, direction, and confidence in pursuing healthcare careers.

"We host this conference annually to help students have a better understanding of health career opportunities, to increase personal health awareness through education, and to increase the number of minority, rural and economically challenged students who pursue health sciences education and health careers," shares Jacquelyn Hallum, MBA, MHA, director of Health Careers and Diversity Education at the Mountain Area Health Education Center (MAHEC).

Students will have an opportunity to participate in learning sessions on developing leadership skills, social media and its impact on employment, financial aid, navigating health career choices, and cultural diversity. The closing keynote will address seven strategies that create a prescription for academic and social success.

This event is sponsored by MAHEC, UNC Asheville, MedCaT Academy at Wake Forest University, and the WNC Regional Advisory Committee representing a broad range of educational and health institutions.

Registration is free and remains open for all Western North Carolina high school students through September 21, 2018.

For more information and registration, contact Jacquelyn Hallum at [jacquelyn.hallum@mahec.org](mailto:jacquelyn.hallum@mahec.org) or 828.257.4479.

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**The Mountain Area Health Education Center (MAHEC)** was established in 1974 and is a leader in healthcare, education and innovation. Located in Asheville, MAHEC serves a 16-county region in Western North Carolina. It is the largest [Area Health Education Center](#) in North Carolina, which evolved to address national and state concerns with the supply, retention and quality of health professionals. MAHEC's mission is to train the next generation of healthcare professionals for Western North Carolina through quality healthcare, innovative education, and best practice models that can be replicated nationally. For more information on MAHEC, visit [www.mahec.net](http://www.mahec.net).