

# Enhancing Cancer Program Partnerships with Area Health Education Centers (AHECs)

The webinar will begin at 1:00 p.m. Eastern.

Audio: Use computer speakers or phone  
(1-866-307-6424)

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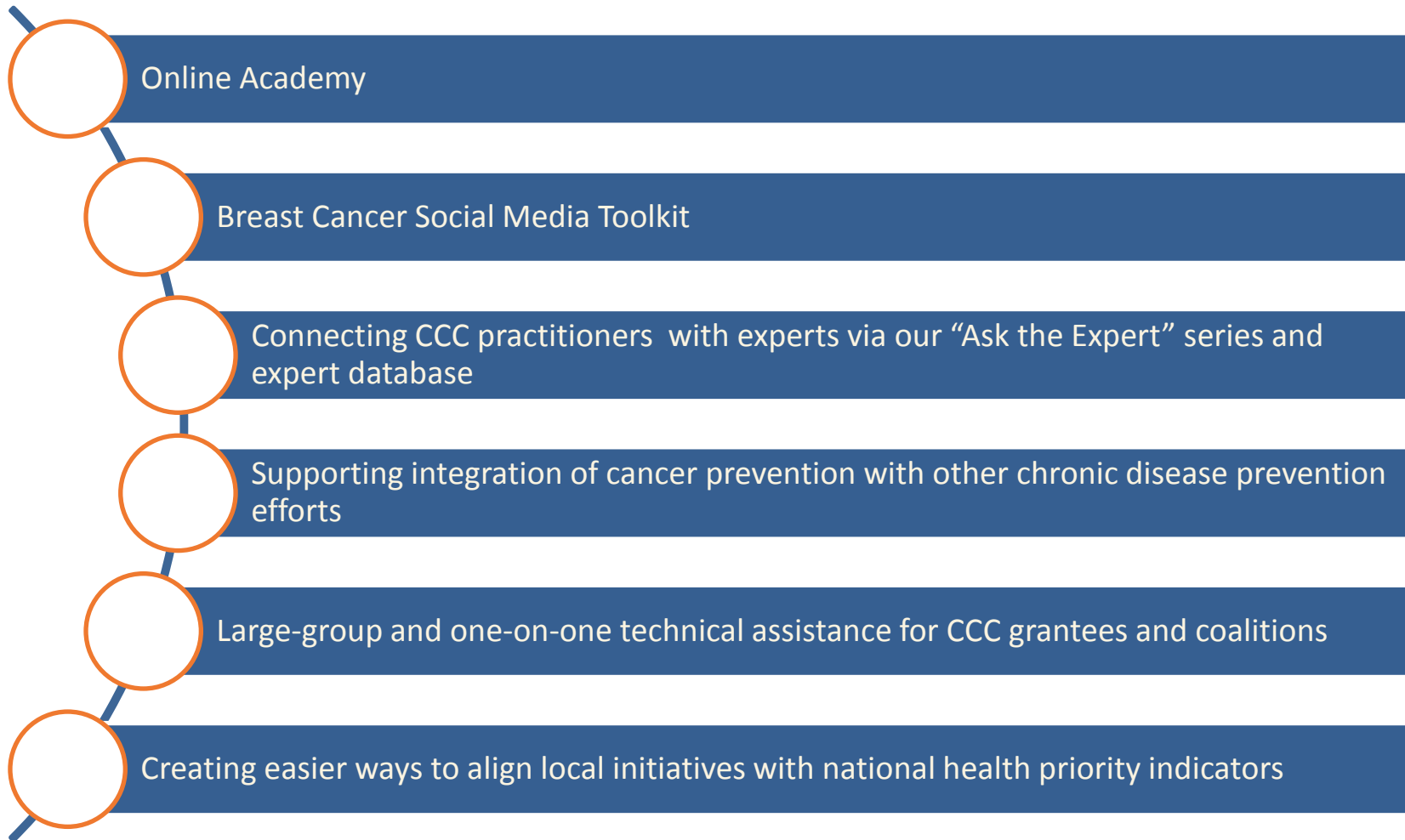
# Agenda

Topic	Presenter
Welcome and Overview of the GW Cancer Institute	Aubrey Van Kirk Villalobos, MPH, MEd GW Cancer Institute
Enhancing Cancer Program Partnerships with Area Health Education Centers (AHECs)	Robert M. Trachtenberg, MS National AHEC Organization  Mary E. Craig, MSHC Erie Niagara Area Health Education Center, Inc.  Ansley Mora Gulfcoast South AHEC, Inc.  Shyrea A. Thompson Robinson, BA, CNM Capital City AHEC, Inc.
Question & Answer	All

# GW Cancer Institute

- Founded in 2003
- Vision: To set the standard for patient-centered care and eliminate cancer health disparities.
- Mission: To ensure access to quality, patient-centered care across the cancer continuum through community engagement, patient and family empowerment, health care professional education, policy advocacy, and collaborative multi-disciplinary research.

# GW Cancer Institute TA Project



# GW Cancer Control TAP

- Visit our new Cancer Control Technical Assistance Portal (TAP) [www.cancercontroltap.org](http://www.cancercontroltap.org) designed to pull together existing and new technical assistance for Comprehensive Cancer Control.
- Subscribe to receive our monthly technical assistance e-newsletters at [www.cancercontroltap.org](http://www.cancercontroltap.org).
- Check out our FREE CME e-Learning series at [www.CancerSurvivorshipCenterEducation.org](http://www.CancerSurvivorshipCenterEducation.org).
- Follow the GW Cancer Institute on Twitter [@GWCancerInst](https://twitter.com/GWCancerInst)! Engage with us using #TAPwebinar.



Robert M. Trachtenberg, MS



Mary E. Craig, MSHC



Ansley Mora



Shyrea A. Thompson Robinson,  
BA, CNM

# National AHEC Organization: In Partnership with The George Washington University Cancer Institute

Robert M. Trachtenberg, MS  
Executive Director  
National AHEC Organization

# AHEC Presenters

Mary Craig, MSHC

President

Erie Niagara AHEC, Inc.

Buffalo, NY

[craigme@enahec.org](mailto:craigme@enahec.org)

Ansley Mora

Tobacco Training & Education Coordinator

Gulfcoast South AHEC, Inc.

Sarasota, FL

[amora@health.usf.edu](mailto:amora@health.usf.edu)

Shyrea A. Thompson-Robinson, BA CNM

Executive Director

Capital City AHEC, Inc.

Washington, DC

[SThompson@ccahec-dc.org](mailto:SThompson@ccahec-dc.org)



# Learning Objectives

- Provide an overview of the HRSA Bureau of Health Workforce
- Describe the Area Health Education Center (AHEC) Program
- Describe the National AHEC Organization (NAO)
- Summarize recent NAO Cancer Coalition activities
- Discuss opportunities for collaboration

# HRSA Bureau of Health Workforce

- The Bureau of Health Workforce programs help America build a health care workforce prepared and eager to improve the public health by expanding access to quality health services and working to achieve health equity.
- The Bureau of Health Workforce was created in May 2014, integrating HRSA workforce programs previously housed in two bureaus: Health Professions (AHEC et al.) and Clinician Recruitment and Service (NHSC).
- HHS → HRSA → Bureau of Health Workforce → Division of Health Careers and Financial Support → Health Careers Pipeline Branch → AHEC; HCOP; COE

# AHEC Program

- Development of the AHEC system began when the first programs were funded by Congress in 1971 as a national strategy to improve the supply, distribution, retention and quality of primary care and other health practitioners in medically underserved areas.
- Program originated in response to a 1970 report by the [Carnegie Foundation for the Advancement of Teaching](#), *Higher Education and the Nation's Health: Policies for Medical and Dental Education*, which expressed concern with healthcare availability and delivery in the United States.

# AHEC Program

- *“The Area Health Education Centers (AHEC) Program enhances access to high quality, culturally competent healthcare through community-based interprofessional/interdisciplinary training, continuing education and health careers outreach activities that will ultimately improve the distribution, diversity and supply of the primary care health professions workforce who serve in rural and underserved healthcare delivery sites.”*
- 1st cohort 11 states; since grown nationally on a state-by-state basis to current 45 federally recognized states
- Authorization & annual appropriation

# National AHEC Organization (NAO)

- The membership association that supports and advances the AHEC Network to improve health by leading the nation in the recruitment, training and retention of a diverse health workforce for underserved communities.
- Established in FY1999; 1st staff member 2010
- Vision:
  - *“The AHEC network will be the national leader in developing a highly competent and diverse health care workforce for underserved populations.”*

# National AHEC Organization (NAO)

55 medical school AHEC programs

- 52 allopathic
- 3 osteopathic: A.T. Still, MO; Nova SE, FL; UNE, ME

2 nursing school AHEC programs (2007 Rule)

- MT, AK

248 community-based centers:  
66% non-profit; 29% hosted;  
5% other model

45 states, District of Columbia and 2 territories (No AHECs in: *DE, IA, KS, MS, OK*) with federally recognized AHEC program offices; however...

AHECs in 2,700+ counties w/in the 45 states that have federally-recognized AHEC programs (48 states total; Guam; Republic of Palau)

Expansion of 16 AHECs (Community-Based) in FY15

Commitment to Community:  
Federal 75/25 Rule

# Range of AHEC Initiatives

- CE/CME
- Community health education
- Community Health Worker (CHW) initiatives
- Evaluation and training/technical assistance
- Health care pipeline activities K-16
- Health care workforce needs & data analysis/community assessments
- Interprofessional education & practice: NCC
- Minority health/diversity
- Primary care/behavioral health Integration
- Primary care training
- Service learning
- Tobacco cessation
- Veteran's mental health

# AHEC by the numbers

## **AHEC depth and breadth of activities related to the 'recruitment, retention and CE' of the health care workforce, annually:**

- 1.6 million CE contact hours
- 12,000 community-based training sites
- 400,000 students introduced to health careers annually
- 443,000 health professionals provided continuing education
- Partnerships with 600 nonmedical health science centers/academic institutions
- Partnerships with a wide variety of HHS/SAMHSA/HRSA/DoL programs
- Partnerships with over 1,100 community health centers



# NAO Partners & AHEC Network

***"A key strength of the AHEC network is its ability to creatively adapt national initiatives to help address local and regional healthcare issues."***

- Amgen Foundation: CHW Development
- CS2Day: Smoking Cessation
- GW Cancer Institute
- GW Department of Health Policy: ACA Marketplace Project
- HRSA ATrACC
- France Foundation
- Interstate Post-Graduate Medical Association (IPMA): REMS Opioid Initiative
- Lupus Initiative of the American College of Rheumatology
- National Health Service Corps *Collegiate Health Service Corps Expansion Program*
- SAMHSA
- VA

# Gulfcoast South AHEC

- Regional cancer collaborative: Southwest Florida Cancer Control Collaborative (SWCCC)
- GSAHEC: approached by the group in 2010 to help plan and promote continuing education programming related to the mission of SWCCC.
- Recently, SWCCC underwent a strategic planning process; established the following goals:
  - Recruit and maintain active membership of at least 16 people (bring a guest campaign, stock letter for personal contacts, etc.)
  - Develop a communications plan; form communication committee

# Gulfcoast South AHEC

## SWCCC Goals (cont.)

Showcase at least one statewide or member prevention effort at collaborative meetings and in newsletter communications

Facilitate annual patient access and navigation networking meeting with the collaborative and its partners (beginning May 2015)

Establish and maintain a Survivorship Workgroup; promote and support at least two survivorship-related activities (beginning Jan 2015)

# Capital City AHEC

- Since 1999 the Capital City AHEC (CCAHEC) has served as a leader for Community Health Worker and Patient Navigation training and education. Our GW AHEC Program and Center Offices continue to partner extensively with GW Cancer Institute.
- Capital City AHEC serves on local navigation and cancer control initiatives to enhance our navigation programs focusing on cancer, co-morbidities and access to care.
- Nationally, CCAHEC serves on the GW Cancer Institute's Comprehensive Cancer Control (CCC) Technical Assistance Steering Committee and Patient Navigation Framework- Role Delineation initiative; National AHEC's A-TrACC Marketplace project and recently was invited to the Center for Disease Control's Advisory Committee on Breast Cancer in Young Women.

# Capital City AHEC

## DC Pink Divas

- Lay health worker training, navigation and outreach program that combats high rates of breast cancer mortality by empowering, educating and impacting women in vulnerable communities.
- Funded in 2012 by Susan G. Komen for \$200,000. As of 2014, Divas became a Special Komen Grantee and annually provides navigation, mammograms and resources to 300 women, serving over 10,000 women in 2 years.
- Nationally recognized by Nancy Brinker, founder of Susan G. Komen and Judy Salerno, current CEO as Komen's leading breast cancer navigation program and will be featured in this October's issue of O Magazine and has been invited to advise Komen on a new national disparities initiative.
- Local Partners: GW Cancer Institute – City-Wide Patient Navigation Network & Survivorship Initiatives; Breast Care for Washington, DC Primary Care Bureau, Washington Hospital Center's Religious Traditions Initiative, DC Tobacco Free Coalition, DC Primary Care Association, DC Department of Health Cancer Control Program & Project Wish, Sister 2 Sister, Sisters Informing Sisters, American Cancer Society, Washington Redskins.

# Erie Niagara AHEC

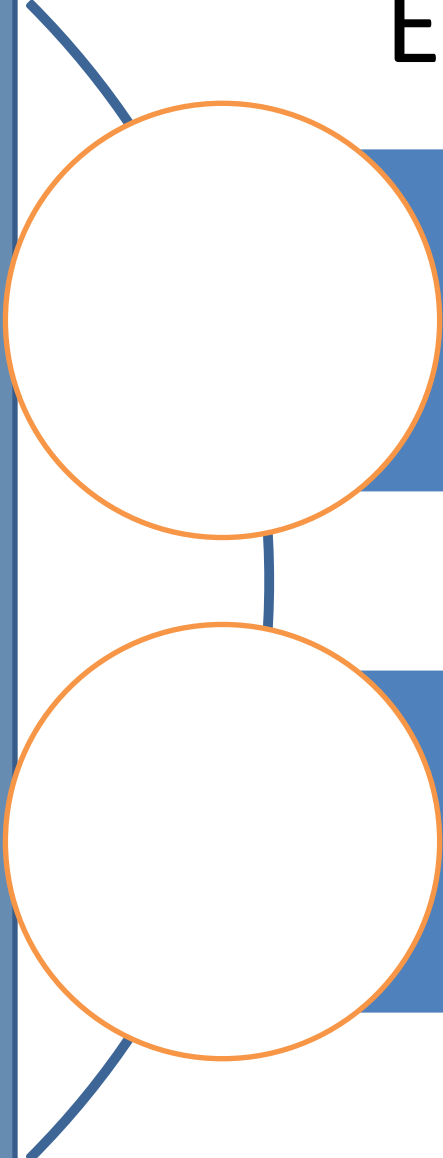


Ten years of providing Community Health Education to underserved residents in Western New York

Recently became a member of the NYS Cancer Consortium

Partnering with the Community Health Center of Buffalo, a FQHC, to develop a health education series for cancer awareness and prevention

# Erie Niagara AHEC



Developing a community forum to involve community residents in a discussion about Cancer – Signs, symptoms, and resources. Objective: to develop community designed communication tools.

Developing a young adults network – to help young people increase their awareness of facts and to help identify resources for young caregivers.

# Questions & Discussion



# Contact Information

**Robert M. Trachtenberg, MS**

Executive Director

National AHEC Organization

(414) 908-4953 x131

(401) 248-4837

[rtrachtenberg@nationalahec.org](mailto:rtrachtenberg@nationalahec.org)

[nationalahec.org](http://nationalahec.org)

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- Follow the GW Cancer Institute on Twitter [@GWCancerInst!](https://twitter.com/GWCancerInst)