

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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**Arizona Alliance for Community Health Centers Awarded Contract to Expand Workforce Development**

The Arizona Alliance for Community Health Centers (AACHC) has been awarded the contract for the Central Arizona Health Education Center (CAAHEC) to serve Maricopa County, the greater Valley, and portions of Pinal County and Yavapai County. The mission of the Arizona AHEC is to improve access to quality healthcare, particularly primary and public health, by improving the supply, diversity, and distribution of healthcare professionals through academic-community partnerships.

“We are excited to launch this regional AHEC” said Sean Clendaniel, CAAHEC director “As the state’s Primary Care Association we firmly believe we are at the nexus of addressing Community Health Center and the regions workforce challenges. The health workforce issues in Arizona are a serious issue, especially for rural and underserved communities and amongst primary care and public health systems. The solution to addressing the myriad of health delivery challenges facing our primary care and public health systems is through a ‘growing our own’ approach. This is accomplished through strong academic-community partnerships focused on developing a health workforce in professions of highest need, in places of highest need, using innovative models. Through educating students in our Community Health Centers and public health systems, we will get them connected with our community, which in turn will help address health disparities and help make our communities healthier”

AHEC supports a variety of education programs at all levels of the health professions workforce development. This includes youth programs, clinical and community-based training for health professions students and residents, continuing education for health professionals, and public health education. Centers carry out the program’s mission by creating and coordinating programs within their service regions, with the focus on primary care, public health, community-based, interprofessional, culturally attuned services and education. AHEC’s primary partners include academic institutions, community organizations, healthcare agencies, social service, public health, and other groups that promote the health of Arizona residents.

To learn more about CAAHEC and its work in expanding healthcare workforce, please visit [www.aachc.org](http://www.aachc.org).



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