



# Northeast Oregon Area Health Education Center

## ANNUAL REPORT REPORT NO. 2020



### PMHNP Student Nathan Neff

"I anticipate that having another mental health provider with a spiritual and medical background will have a significant impact in Baker County. I appreciate the opportunity to go back to school, and NEOAHEC's work to bring this program to eastern Oregon has opened some great doors."



### PMHNP Student Jacki Russell

"Wallowa County does not currently have any practicing PMHNP's living in our area and I hope to help fill that gap in the future. I also have an interest in public health and community health. I feel that there will be opportunities for collaboration with community partners, and other service providers to address needs in my community related to mental health."



### VIRTUAL GIRLS IN SCIENCE 2020

Learn about the Science behind Covid-19 (Coronavirus)

November 7th, 2020

#### Registration Info:

Cost: \$5.00 to register (scholarships available if you have one) Be sure to arrive on time due to the short wait before contact



### PMHNP Student Darren Ramcharan

"I have seen firsthand working both in an acute and public health setting in the emergency department and currently in the state prison system that there is an extreme lack of mental health providers and community options locally for the mentally ill to receive the proper care. By pursuing my PMHNP and bringing my education back to my community I will be able to make a difference by providing the care that this community desperately needs."



# 2020 ACTION



# DIRECTOR'S STATEMENT



Over the past nine months we've had the occasion to see our communities, our friends, our workplaces, our state, and most importantly ourselves through a different lens. This unprecedented time has challenged us in unrelenting ways.

It has also created both positive and negative reactions to this 'groundhog day' situation that we all find ourselves in. Eventually this extraordinary global pandemic will release its hold on us, and hopefully provide the opportunity to see that we've withstood the challenge, and maybe even become better.

It is with the understanding of privilege that I write this statement reflecting on 2020. While there have been some challenges for our team to overcome this year, they have not outweighed the opportunity to remain true to our mission:

*To educate and inspire students and professionals to build a sustainable health care community for Eastern Oregon.*

Success in 2020 was defined by our willingness to travel into the unknown and do the absolute best that we could for region, and for our students. I am so proud to say that we did not cancel a single program that we had planned to offer as a result of the pandemic. Instead we made the choice to just adapt to what has become known as the "new normal," which is virtual education and interaction.

I hope that you enjoy this snapshot of our work during this challenging year!

*Meredith Lair*

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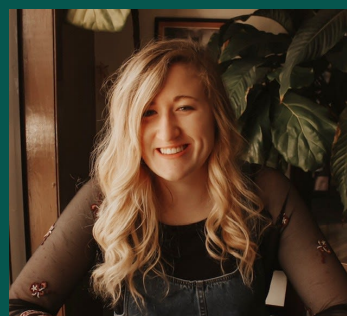
**Eric Wiser, MD - Ex-Officio**

Director Oregon AHEC

# OUR TEAM



Meredith Lair,  
Executive Director



Hailey Hulse,  
Program Coordinator



Beckie Juarez,  
Site Coordinator

## VIRTUAL GIRLS IN SCIENCE

### The Science Behind COVID-19

*"I learned that the CoronaVirus has RNA instead of DNA. I also learned the difference between the two. Thank you guys for hosting the camp/class, it's been really fun."*

*- La Grande Middle School Student*



# OUR PROGRAMS

## Adapting to the Pandemic

### Virtual MedQuest

Filled with tours, interviews, demonstrations, and team building, Virtual MedQuest hosted 71 students from Oregon to learn more about health careers during this four-day camp.

*"The best part of camp today was the reassurance I gained. Whenever I think about my future I get overwhelmed because I don't know how I will accomplish everything. Learning to apply for scholarships and hearing successes and passion from others has reassured me that I can become a PA and that I will love it!"*

### Virtual Girls in Science

A look into the science behind COVID-19! NEOAHEC collaborated with faculty and students in the Eastern Oregon University (EOU) Chemistry, Biology, Math, and Computer Science departments to grow our middle school students' knowledge of the virus.

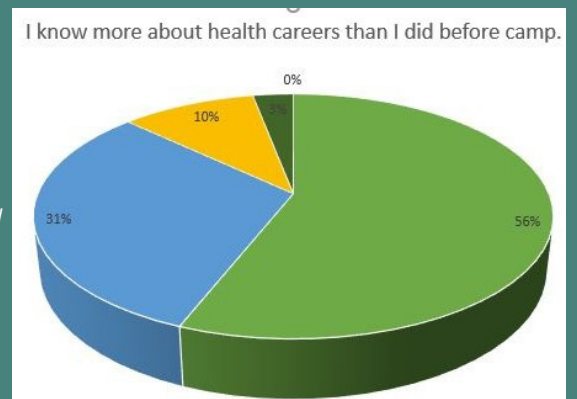
*"I learned more about how the coronavirus works and how to stay away from it."  
"I learned how the virus reacts and gets into your cells."*

### Future Health Professionals of Oregon

This online dual credit curriculum for high school students to gain a better understanding of careers in healthcare. Several schools continue to offer this course through this difficult year including: Baker, Elgin, Hood River, Imbler and Intermountain ESD, Milton Freewater, Stanfield, and Wallowa.

## MEDQUEST IMPACT

*"I really loved all that I learned in MedQuest and would love to be there in person next year. Being a part of MedQuest has got me even more excited to become an ENT, or another kind of doctor, and to make connections with other doctors and classmates that will cheer me on through my journey to become a person in the medical field."  
- MedQuest Camper*





## Virtual Health Speaker Series

Another successful collaboration with EOU, this program is focused on the pre-professions health club at the University. NEOAHEC gives the undergraduate students access to health care providers, current resources, and "a day in the life" presentations from local health care providers.

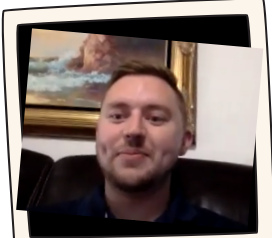
## Campus for Rural Health

Health professions students began clinical rotations throughout the region during summer term and in fall term. Using the delivery method piloted by the Northeast, students from all 3 campuses (Northeast, South Coast, and Klamath Falls) engaged in an Interprofessional Education course discussing topics like living and working in a rural area, access to care, and coordination of care with local health care providers.

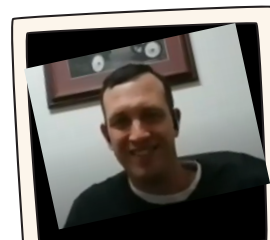
## Health Speaker Presenters



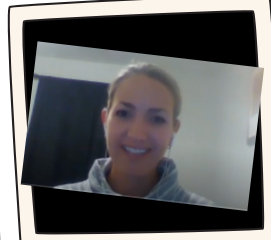
Adam Heisinger, DO



Ron Christensen, PharmD



Steve Koza, DMD



Shandy Miller, RDH

## Distance Psychiatric Mental Health Nurse Practitioner Program

In 2019, NEOAHEC received \$1 million grant from the Healthy Oregon Workforce Training (HOWTO) grant sponsored by the Oregon Health Authority to expand the Oregon Health and Sciences University (OHSU) 3-year Doctor of Nursing Practice PMHNP program to distance delivery serving Eastern Oregon.

Success will be achieved through this grant project by identifying qualified students rooted in the region, educating them in place, and retaining them as licensed PMHNPs in Eastern Oregon. In 2020 the first cohort of 3 students from Eastern Oregon matriculated into the OHSU School of Nursing PMHNP Program. The next cohort of students will be determined in the spring, and begin the program in the Fall of 2021.



Darren Ramcharan  
Pendleton, OR



Jacki Russell  
Wallowa, OR



Nathen Neff  
Baker City, OR



## Rural Clinical Rotations

**49** Students

**5** Different Health Professions

**\$7,350** Mileage Support

**9** Clinical Sites

## Student Experiences

*"Overall, I have had an incredible experience at Winding Waters and I truly do believe that the way the clinic approaches health care will be the standard of care in the future. It is a great community for both patients and practitioners as we are able to communicate fairly easily with one another to coordinate patient care. As a future dentist, I believe that this is important because of the relationship between oral health and your overall health."*

*OHSU Dental Student*

*"I really enjoyed my time working at Grande Ronde Hospital because I was able to get intimate, hands on experience working with my patients; not only was I seeing patients on my own in clinic, I also got to perform procedures, help prep the patient prior to surgery, be first assist in surgery, and round/write notes for each patient. I wouldn't have been able to get such direct experience if I was at a bigger hospital. Lastly, being able to work with a physician one on one also provided me with meaningful feedback that allowed me to improve throughout the rotation."*

*OHSU Medical Student*



## Our Vision for Healthcare in Eastern Oregon

To address the healthcare workforce shortage in rural and frontier Eastern Oregon by developing our own health professionals that reflect the composition and needs of the communities they serve.



Find us on the web: [www.neoahec.org](http://www.neoahec.org)

Email the Director: [mlair@neoahec.org](mailto:mlair@neoahec.org)



Northeast Oregon AHEC