

# ANNUAL REPORT

**2020-2021**

Tobacco Free Florida  
AHEC Cessation Program

REACH Student Programs

ACCESS Program

## Welcome

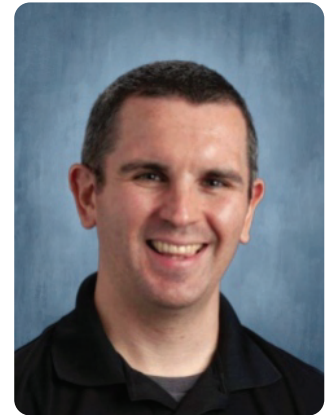
Gulfoast South Area Health Education Center (GSAHEC) connects students to careers, professionals to communities and communities to better health. For more than 25 years, GSAHEC has **fostered programs that educate and enhance the well-being of the communities we serve**. The rich history of providing education to health professionals and students, training and supporting medical interpreters and community health workers, and inspiring and preparing youth to enter any one of the healthcare professions that our communities so desperately need, continues to be a source of pride and inspiration for the future.

Through our **ACCESS Program**, we offer medical interpreting training, cultural competency seminars, occupational Spanish classes, community health worker training and more. As part of the **Tobacco Free Florida AHEC Cessation Program**, we are the group cessation provider in our local counties, and provide a variety of trainings to healthcare providers and health professions students to assist them in helping their patients become tobacco-free. Finally, our **REACH Student Programs** help inspire students to choose a career in the health professions or care for underserved populations. **Through education, we strive to fulfill our vision where every person has access to quality care.**

**Gulfoast South AHEC is an organization to whom you can turn to provide education, support and inspiration for healthier communities.** Our tagline, Promoting Community Health through Partnerships & Education, speaks to the importance of partnerships in the work we do. We plan to fortify our partnerships and good work for many years to come. Thanks for being a part of our journey!

Sincerely,

*Matt Bowman and Ansley Mora*



**Matt Bowman**  
Board Chair



**Ansley Mora**  
Chief Executive Officer

### Our Mission

*To provide health education that improves the well-being of the communities we serve.*

### Our Vision

*We envision healthy communities where every person has access to quality care.*

### Our Tagline

*Promoting Community Health through Partnerships & Education.*



## Tobacco Free Florida AHEC Cessation Program

### 1 Providing Cessation Services to Tobacco Users

1,144 Cessation Attendees

320 Group Quit Sessions



### 2 Educating & Training Health Professions Students

628 Health Professions Students

30 Trainings



### 3 Offering Continuing Education to Practicing Healthcare Professionals

828 Healthcare Providers

24 Trainings



### 4 Systems Change & Behavioral Health Initiatives

2,704 Total Cessation Referrals

10 Behavioral Health Sites

New Healthcare Provider

Automated Referral Form



Since July 2007, the Florida AHEC Network has received funding from the Florida Legislature as part of the constitutionally mandated appropriation to the Florida Department of Health's comprehensive anti-tobacco program. This funding has been used to develop and successfully implement a statewide program that reduces the use of tobacco by delivering effective, evidence-based tobacco cessation services in local communities, and training programs for healthcare providers and health professions students. Florida AHECs are also actively involved in health systems change strategies and initiatives related to behavioral health populations.

### Testimonial:

"I come from a very musical family and I love to sing. I lost my voice over 20 years ago due to smoking. With the help from Gulfcoast South AHEC, 1-800-QUIT-NOW and the support from Nathan and Melissa, I was able to quit smoking! You added years to my life and you gave me my voice back. Thank you!" -Sandy R.

## REACH Student Programs

### 1 REACH Health Careers Presentations

82 Students Trained  
5 Presentations  
107 Video Shares



### 2 REACH Career Chats

112 Career Chats Students  
8 Career Chats



### 3 REACH Health Careers Camp

22 Students Attended  
19 Health Careers Highlighted



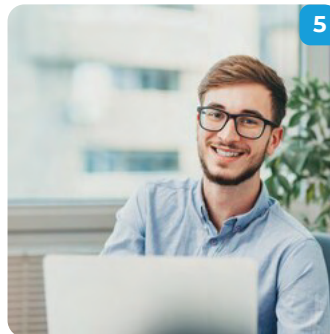
### 4 REACH/HOSA Future Health Professionals Partnerships

36 HOSA Students Participated  
2 Schools



### 5 REACH Intern Program

3 Student Interns - 2 College & 1 High School  
315 Total Hours



### 6 AHEC Scholars Program

7 Cohort 1 Completers  
12 Cohort 2 Completers  
17 Cohort 3 Participants



GSAHEC's REACH (Recruitment & Educational Assistance for Careers in Health) Student Programs inspires students to choose a career in the health professions or care for underserved populations. This program helps students learn from health professionals, increases their knowledge about healthcare, and motivates the students to develop effective short and long term educational and career plans.

## Testimonials:

"The Health Profession camp provided by GSAHEC was truly an experience. You get to meet many different health professions and the path it takes to get there. I would recommend this camp to anybody interested in a health profession!" -Brayan H.

"The AHEC Scholars Program is an amazing program that...allowed me to participate in a lot of interprofessional opportunities that I would not have had the option to participate in otherwise. This program has also helped me with professional networking. Thank you so much!" -Kayla W.



## ACCESS Program

**1 Medical Interpreting Training**

60 Participants  
6 Virtual 40-Hour Trainings

**2 Occupational Spanish Classes**

5 Occupational Spanish Participants  
1 Class  
65 AHEC Scholars Participants  
3 AHEC Scholars Offerings

**3 Translation Projects**

6 Translation Projects

**4 Community Health Worker Training**

Local Stakeholder Assessment  
Conducted  
Training & Curriculum Updates



GSAHEC's ACCESS (Advanced Cultural Competence Education & Support Services) Program strives to reduce health disparities and liability risks by assisting local health and human services organizations in providing effective care to linguistically and culturally diverse communities across the state and beyond.

*Testimonial:*

*"In 2018, I took the medical interpreting training. It was so fabulous that I tried to find a way to introduce it to all the FQHCs (federally-qualified health centers). I was pleased to find a grant that allowed us to offer 15 scholarships to staff persons from across the state. Liliana is a consummate professional, who really understands that nature of bilingual medical interpretation. This was a 'set it and forget it' kind of training where everyone did whatever it took to make it a pleasant experience for the participants with a lot of new and valuable skills and smooth sailing for the grant. I hope to be able to do this again in the very near future!" - Linda C., FL Assoc. of Community Health Centers*

## 25th Anniversary Celebration

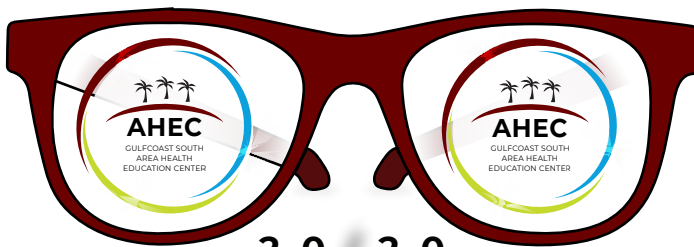
On June 8, 1995, Gulfcoast South AHEC's articles of incorporation were filed, formally establishing our organization in Charlotte, DeSoto, Manatee and Sarasota Counties. Gulfcoast South AHEC spent this past year celebrating this milestone and held a culminating event on June 8, 2021, to celebrate its **first** 25 years of service.

Current and former board members and staff, tobacco cessation facilitators, program participants and students, USF AHEC, local vendors, and community partners were recognized and celebrated for contributing to GSAHEC's success.

GSAHEC's team worked hard to celebrate our **first** 25 years of service, and although this was our culminating event, we know the years to come will allow us to connect more students to careers, more professionals to communities, and continue our work of helping to improve access to quality care for all members of our communities.



Former Chief Executive Officer, Edna Apostol, and current Chief Executive Officer, Ansley Mora, pose for a picture at the 25th Anniversary Celebration



ENVISIONING HEALTHY COMMUNITIES



**25<sup>th</sup>**  
**ANNIVERSARY**



25th Anniversary Event Highlights





*Celebrating **AHEC** of a Year!*

On December 10, 2020, Gulfcoast South AHEC conducted a virtual **Holiday Soiree** to celebrate our partners, the success of our participants, and spread some holiday cheer. Board members, community partners, staff and their family members joined us in their most festive holiday attire for this fun event. The theme of our soiree was “Celebrating AHEC of a Year!” and that we did.

## Board of Directors

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**Matt Bowman**, MS, *Inspiration Academy*  
Board Chair

**Pascale Edouard**, MPH, *Manatee County Government*  
Vice Chair

**Marco Brenes**, MBA, *Lake Erie College of Osteopathic Medicine*  
Secretary/Treasurer

**Amie J. Miller**, MSN, APRN, *Sarasota Memorial Health Care System*  
Member

**Rodica Vasilescu**, PhD, APN-C, *Sarasota Memorial Health Care System*  
Member

**Diane Ramseyer**, MPA, CPP, *Drug Free Charlotte County*  
Member

**Angela Almeyda**, MS, *State College of Florida*  
Member

**Cirelle Fitzsimmons**, RN, BSN, *Community Representative*  
Member

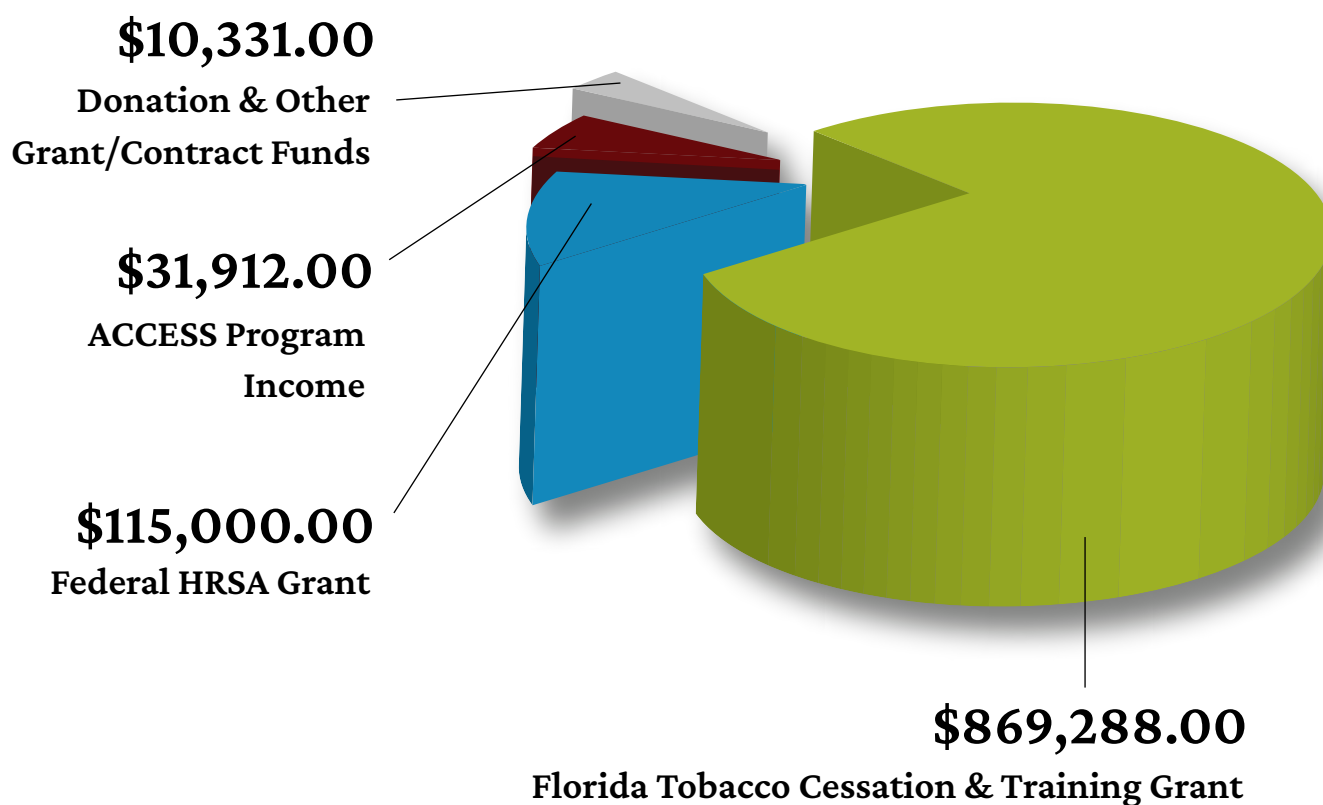
**Evan Kirk**, *USF Tampa*  
Student Representative

**Anne Wenders**, MPH, *USF Federal AHEC Program*  
Ex-Officio Member





## Annual Income



**Total Annual Revenue: \$1,026,531.00**





GULFCOAST SOUTH  
AREA HEALTH  
EDUCATION CENTER

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