

**AHEC**

GULF COAST SOUTH  
AREA HEALTH  
EDUCATION CENTER

# ANNUAL REPORT

Tobacco Free Florida  
AHEC Cessation Program

REACH  
Student Programs

ACCESS Program

## 2021-2022

## 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*

## Welcome

Gulfcoast South Area Health Education Center (GSAHEC) connects students to careers, professionals to communities and communities to better health. For more than 27 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.

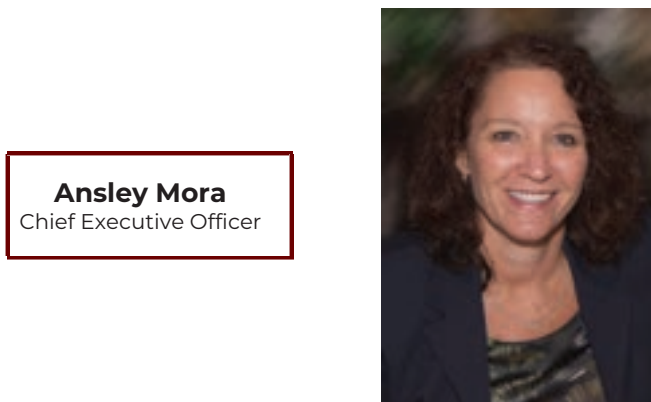
Gulfcoast South AHEC is an organization to whom you can turn to provide education, support and inspiration for healthier communities. Our tagline, Promoting Community Health through Partnerships & Education, speaks to the importance of partnerships in the work we do. We plan to fortify our partnerships and good work for many years to come. Thanks to all for your support in helping us meet our mission!

Sincerely,

*Angela Almeyda and Ansley Mora*



**Angela Almeyda**  
Board Chair



**Ansley Mora**  
Chief Executive Officer

## Tobacco Free Florida AHEC Cessation Program

### 1 Providing Cessation Services to Tobacco Users

1,470 Cessation Attendees  
374 Group Quit Sessions



### 2 Educating & Training Health Professions Students

626 Health Professions Students  
15 Trainings & Online Modules



### 3 Offering Continuing Education to Practicing Healthcare Professionals

287 Healthcare Providers  
20 Trainings



### 4 Systems Change & Behavioral Health Initiatives

26 Local Health Systems & Healthcare Practices  
12 Behavioral Health Organizations  
28 Community Based Organizations & Businesses  
3 CareerSource Organizations  
(Suncoast, Heartland, & Southwest Florida)



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.

### Testimonial:

"I have made several life changes over the past several years, but none have been more important than giving up tobacco. Like all changes, the core elements, ready, willing, and able, must be engaged entirely. I made my decision to quit tobacco my top priority (ready). I placed the highest value on my life and health (willing). However, I lacked the ability to affect change by myself (ability). Enter Tobacco Free Florida and Nicole who brought all the assistance necessary to complete the desired change to my life. I learned everything I needed to know to understand my tobacco addiction, and the health risks, and consequences. I was given the support, accountability, and tools to finally quit once and for all. I can personally say that the patches along with the lozenges made quitting much easier than I had anticipated. I have been addicted to tobacco for the better part of 40 years and through this wonderful program I have been tobacco free since November 1st 2021!!!! I am tobacco free today because I trusted the process that this great program offers. Thank you all for helping people like me change their lives." – Jim R.



## REACH Student Programs

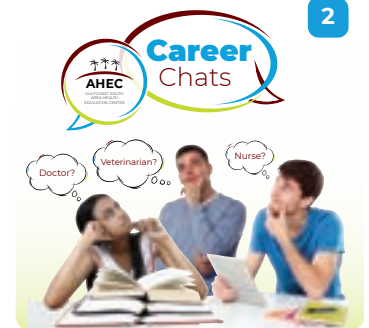
### 1 REACH Health Careers Presentations

32 Students Trained  
113 Video Shares



### 2 REACH Career Chats

321 Career Chats Students  
15 Career Chats



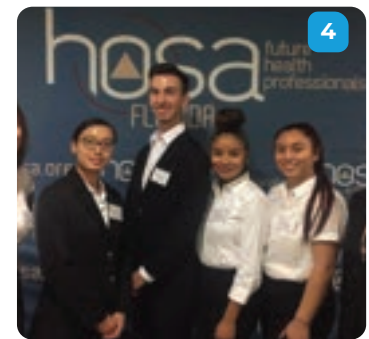
### 3 REACH Health Careers Camp

13 Students Attended  
23 Health Careers Highlighted



### 4 REACH/HOSA Future Health Professionals Partnerships

24 HOSA Students Participated  
Regional, State & International Competitions



### 5 REACH Intern Program

7 Student Interns - 5 College & 2 High School  
600 Total Hours



### 6 AHEC Scholars Program

7 Cohort 1 Completers  
11 Cohort 2 Completers  
13 Cohort 3 Completers  
11 Cohort 4 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:

"As a REACH intern at GSAHEC, I learned so much about public health programming, health disparities, and tobacco cessation strategies. My work involved hands-on experience with programming, observing staff performing crucial health interventions, and networking with fellow public health students and professionals. This was all done with immense support from the GSAHEC staff. I am so grateful for the experiences to which I was given access as a REACH intern and truly believe it has made me a better student and future public health professional."— Kira D.

## ACCESS Program



1



2

**1 Medical Interpreting Training**

30 Participants

5 Virtual 40-Hour Trainings

**2 Occupational Spanish Workshops**

30 AHEC Scholars Participants

2 AHEC Scholars Offerings

**3 Cultural Competency Training**

2 Trainings

56 Participants

AHEC Scholar Module

**4 Translation Projects**

4 Translation Projects

**5 Community Health Worker Training**

CHW Training - 21 Participants

Sponsor for CHW Summit



3



4



5

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.

*Testimonial:*

*"The (Medical Interpreting) course was great! I learned a lot of things I was not aware of and how to be an even more efficient interpreter. Liliانا is truly amazing, and I love how her teaching is done with a lot of love for this field. I am eager to work in the field once I get my certificate and I am more than confident the new skills I learned will be used. Thank you for making the class interesting, enriching, and above all fun!" – Mariza R.*

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**Community Representative**

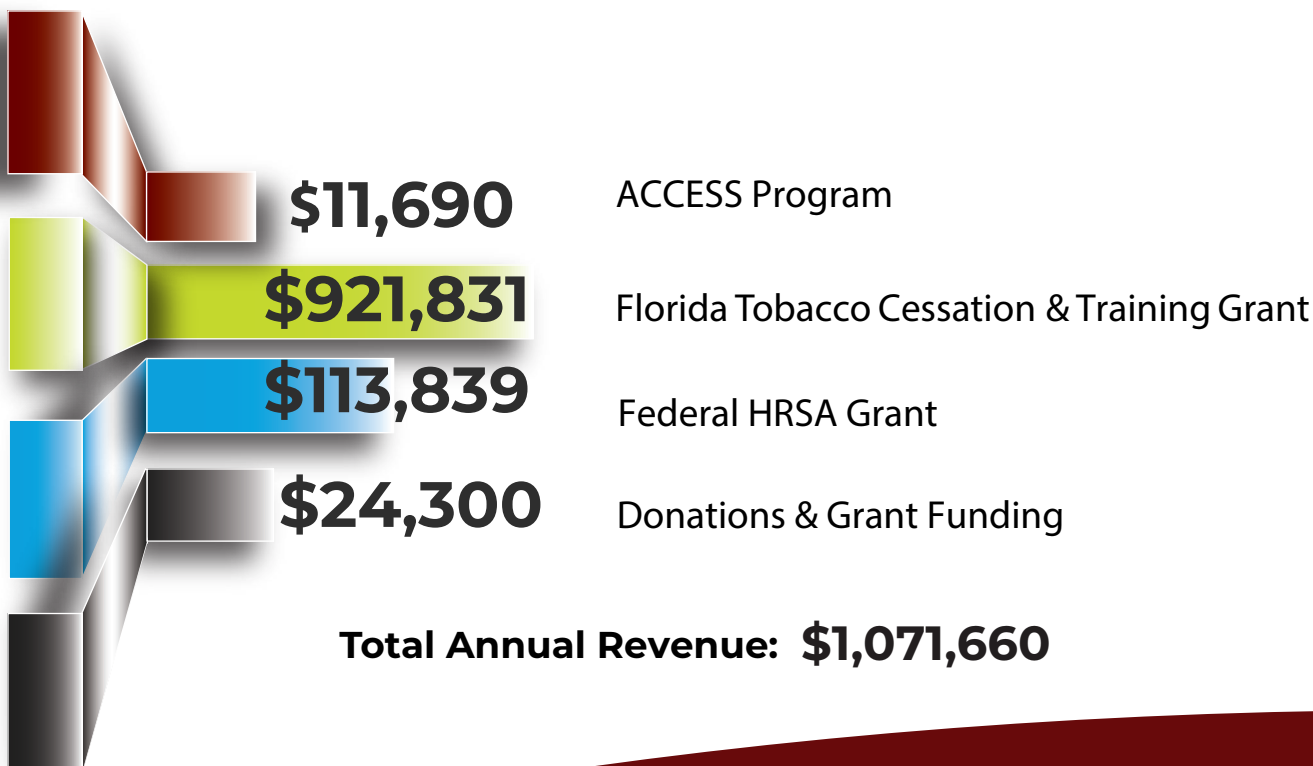
**Evan Kirk**, *USF Tampa*  
**Student Representative**

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



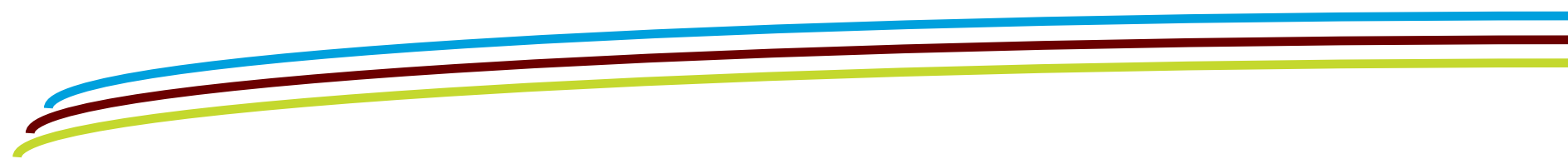
Many thanks to our Board Members  
for their dedication and service  
to Gulfcoast South AHEC!  
- Ansley Mora  
CEO

## Annual Income





GULFCOAST SOUTH  
AREA HEALTH  
EDUCATION CENTER



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