

## Now You Can Educate the Educators!

**KUAHEC** The University of Kansas Area Health Education Centers (AHECs), located in Garden City, Hays and Pittsburg, KS, have offered a variety of programs, continuing education courses and support services to medical, nursing, and allied health students as well as to rural providers in Kansas since 1978. The AHECs work closely with the Center for Telemedicine and Telehealth (KUCTT) and the University of Kansas Medical Center (KUMC) to provide quality training experiences in community settings, utilizing continuing education programs, in particular, to address the needs of communities and health professionals to remain up-to-date on the latest in health care technology, techniques, regulations, and practices.

In the interest of fully responding to the needs of the Kansas medical community, AHEC is currently conducting a brief survey of health professionals to gain input on the challenges facing today's health care practitioners and educational topics that would be valuable to you.

This is your opportunity to turn the system around and educate the educators! The survey is available to take online, or can be downloaded from the AHEC web site to complete and mail at a later time. Just go to <http://kuahec.kumc.edu> and click on the word "Survey" that you'll find in bright red letters on the left side of the screen.

Your participation in the survey will only take a few minutes and will be extremely valuable.

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## Rural MATTeRs!



Dr. Eve-Lynn Nelson, Assistant Director for Research at KUCTT, represented the [Midwest Alliance for Telehealth & Technology Resources \(MATTeR\)](#) at the [National Rural Health Association \(NRHA\)](#) national conference recently held in New Orleans. MATTeR is a federally funded consortium of health technology organizations from various Midwestern states that operates as a Telehealth Resource Center (TRC).

The conference drew participants from across all rural health constituencies - consumers, clinicians, administrators, researchers, state and national government representatives, and others interested in rural health. The NRHA's conference goal was to educate the attendees in areas such as emerging health technology and telemedicine, health profession recruitment and retention, best practices in rural clinical practice, health care policy and its effect on rural providers, health care system change, organizational management, rural health research, and rural health disaster planning.

Dr. Nelson joined with representatives from two other regional TRCs to provide instructional material and technical assistance to groups or individuals interested in the possibility of utilizing telehealth services in their rural locations. She also answered many questions specifically regarding the provision of mental health services.

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## To: Rural School Nurses, Teachers, Administrators Subj: Helping Children and Families Be Healthier

Looking for fresh, new ways to make your school a healthy place for children? The Department of Pediatrics in the University of Kansas School of Medicine has a program for you called The Healthy Schools Project that is designed to help you supplement your school's current nutrition and exercise programs and overcome the barriers to dietary adherence through the promotion of healthy eating and lots of activity!

The Healthy Schools Project currently offers 3 services:



- **A School Wellness Policies Review** - A consultative session with a team of pediatric health care specialists who will review your school's current wellness policies with you and others from your school
- **Family-Based Weight Loss Intervention** - An 8-month program of interactive video sessions with a multi-disciplinary pediatric health care team, focusing on the topics of nutrition, physical activity, and behavior management, available for the families of children in your school who are overweight
- **Individual Health Habits Review & Response** - All students, no matter their weight, can receive an analysis of their health-related habits in the form of a questionnaire regarding a student's daily activity that is reviewed by our Healthy Schools team, followed by a letter mailed from the team to the student's family with an analysis of findings from the questionnaire, and suggestions of various activities designed to support or modify the family's health-related activity



Your school can choose to participate in whichever services are of interest. No matter which services you choose, they are available FREE of charge to your school and students. Plus, school personnel will be reimbursed for all time spent on activity related to The Healthy Schools Project. Participating schools will also receive a FREE digital column scale and stadiometer for monitoring the status of student weight and growth.

In order to participate in The Healthy Schools Project, schools must meet the following criteria:

- Be located in a town or county with a population of less than 20,000 people.
- Serve elementary-level school children.
- Have access to an interactive televideo (ITV), interactive distance learning (IDL), telemedicine (TM), or other technology that allows interactive teleconferencing.
- Be interested in helping children and families live healthier lives!

To learn more about The Healthy Schools Project or enroll your school, contact Dr. Ann Davis at 913-588-5928 or [adavis6@kumc.edu](mailto:adavis6@kumc.edu)

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## What is telemedicine? What is TeleKidcare? What is telepsych? What is a webinar?

Do you ever have questions about KUCTT and the various clinical and wellness programs offered via interactive video technology throughout Kansas? You can always call KUCTT at 913-588-2226 or check our web site at <http://www2.kumc.edu/telemedicine>. But there is also a third option.

In conjunction with MATTeR, our Assistant Director for Research, Eve-Lynn Nelson, PhD, has prepared a summary of KUCTT activity and produced it in a webinar entitled "TeleKidcare: Telemental Health Aspects." This and other webinars are easily accessible at <http://www.midwesttrc.org>. Click on the "Resources" tab at the top of the screen, select "Training and Presentations" from the drop-down list and look for the webinar hotlink.

Also, if you have never experienced a webinar before, this will be a great example. You will have the opportunity to watch Dr. Nelson present on-screen, accompanied by large PowerPoint visuals. It is nearly like attending a presentation in person, but a webinar enables the presenter to reach a large number of people in nearly an unlimited number of locations.

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## Excitement in Washington!



The entire telemedicine community is eagerly monitoring the progress of House Bill #6163, the Medicare Telehealth Enhancement Act, recently introduced at the federal level in the House of Representatives. While the introduction of new legislation is only the first step in a long legislative process, this legislation's broad scope of funding for those involved in the use or development of health care technology makes 6163 vital to the continued expansion of telemedicine.

Among the issues included in the legislation:

- Expanded Medicare reimbursement, to include home telehealth and remote monitoring, plus adding PTs, OTs and SLPs

- Expansion of originating sites for Medicare to include SNFs, dialysis centers and community mental health centers
- Encouraging the adoption of reciprocity agreements for licensure across state lines
- Future study on store-and-forward telemedicine
- Authorizing a new HRSA grant program to develop new telehealth networks
- Re-authorizing the existing telehealth network and telehealth resource centers grant program

Along with the people in Washington, [KUCTT](#) personnel will be monitoring the legislation's progress from here in Kansas City and will keep you informed on its status in future issues of *TeleNews*.

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