

Presentation to the Idaho Health Professions Education Council (IHPEC)

December 7, 2010

Mountain States Group, Inc: Brief History and Programs of MSG, Inc.

Presenter

Chris Tilden, Ph.D - MSG, Inc. Executive Director

Questions?

Idaho Area Health Education Center (AHEC)

A program of Mountain States Group, Inc. and associated with WWAMI

Presenter

Mary Lou Kinney, M.Ed – Idaho AHEC Director

OUR AHEC MISSION: Promoting careers in health care in rural and medically underserved Idaho communities.

The Health Care Professional “Pipeline” & AHEC

The pipeline begins with young people in underserved communities, fosters their interest in health careers and helps them prepare for health professions training. It continues through their college and professional school experiences when we enable their schools to provide part of their health-care professional training in underserved communities. After graduation, the pipeline helps those individuals establish careers and remain in underserved areas. AHEC glues the pipeline together through our collaboration with educational institutions, federal and state agencies, local organizations and underserved communities.

Idaho AHEC:

Introduces youth to health care careers

Current Activities

- Offer “Orientation to Health Care Careers for Rural Middle School Students” -Mountain Home, Weiser;
- Connect health care career “pipeline” with HOSA and Meridian Medical Academy;
- Promote Career Information Systems (CIS) use;
- Support high school “shadowing” of health care professionals;

Some Ideas for the Future

- Expand “Orientation” to more rural Idaho communities;
- Work with CIS to develop a Health Care Career Readiness Sphere based on Colorado model. Health Care Career Readiness Sphere is used by individual clients interested in exploring their “match” and strengths that would serve them best in a health care career and role;

Supports clinical training experiences for students who are pursuing health professions degrees

Current Activities

- Support R/UOP for WWAMI Medical Students (U of I);
- Support rural rotations for BSU summer nursing program students;
- Support outreach dental services in rural school districts by ISU dental hygienists;
- Support rural community outreach of BSU bi-lingual health science graduate student trained in Chronic Disease Management.

Some Ideas for the Future

- Create a central Preceptor databank to avoid duplication and burnout of rural Preceptors and to “grow” the databank as the number of students needing Preceptors for rural rotations increases;
- Support more rural rotations for students in health care professions

Supports existing health care professional events, programs and continuing education opportunities

Current Activities

- Feature relevant events, programs and CEUs through our on-line AHEC website and calendar;
- Support events, programs and CEUs that target access for health care students and professionals in rural and underserved Idaho communities;
- Serve as a conduit for relevant health care professional information.

Some Ideas for the Future

- Create more state loan repayment and scholarship programs available for students in a variety of health professions who work rural or medically underserved communities;

- Offer more health care professional opportunities to work as a “health care team.”

The goal of Idaho AHEC is to help eliminate the shortages of health care professionals in rural and other medically underserved communities.

Questions?

Thank you for your invitation and your interest in MSG, Inc. and Idaho AHEC.