



**Nevada
Area
Health
Education
Centers**

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Rural field work credits offered for health professions students

Students in four of the university's health career tracks -- nutrition, health education, clinical laboratory sciences and the graduate nursing program -- can now satisfy their field work requirement in a rural Nevada community.

Nevada Area Health Education Center, a program of the UN School of Medicine, works in cooperation with the faculty in each of the four fields to develop a program that will benefit the student.

Jamie Anderson, AHEC education coordinator, works with the students to develop a field work experience suitable to their area of education. This is the first time an organized effort has been given to students to go outside the Reno-Sparks area to satisfy this requirement of their major, she added.

The purpose of the field work rotation, which usually occurs during the student's senior year, is to give students some hands-on experience in their field before graduation, according to Anderson.

During the past two years, AHEC has coordinated field work rotations for seven students and the number is growing. Anderson said she hopes more students can become aware of the program and take advantage of the opportunities it offers.

Those opportunities are as different as the students.

This year two nutrition students will travel to Elko to work in the senior center for one week develop menus and assessing the nutritional needs of homebound seniors. A clinical lab sciences student recently returned from a week-long stint at the Elko hospital laboratory and graduate nursing students have taught continuing education classes for nurses in rural Nevada.

"This experience exposes the students to rural Nevada and the needs that exist in a rural setting in their field," Anderson said.