BHECN High School Ambassador Conference
April 10-11, 2015
Frequently Asked Questions

What is BHECN?
In 2009, the Behavioral Health Workforce Act (Legislative Bill 603) established the Behavioral Health Education Center of Nebraska (BHECN, pronounced “beacon”) in response to the shortage of behavioral health professionals. The bill asked BHECN to increase the number of behavioral health professionals with a focus on rural and underserved communities.

What is the BHECN Ambassador Program?
BHECN’s Ambassador Program recruits and mentors students from rural high schools to college, professional school, and into practice as behavioral health professionals.

Why?
To develop a behavioral health workforce for rural Nebraska by investing in students from rural Nebraska and connecting them with information and resources to explore behavioral health careers.

How & When?
BHECN’s 3rd Annual High School Ambassador Conference
April 10-11, 2015 (Friday evening and Saturday)
Younes Conference Center, 416 West Talmadge Road, Kearney, NE

Who attends?
Up to 60 rural high school juniors and seniors interested in behavioral health careers

Tentative Schedule:
The weekend will focus on introducing a variety of careers and topics.

- Friday, April 10
  - 5 pm Informal activities as students arrive
  - 7–10 pm Dinner and discussion with a variety of behavioral health professionals

- Saturday, April 11
  - 9 am–2 pm Breakfast, break-out sessions, and lunch with keynote speaker

Facilitators:
BHECN gathers a wide variety of faculty, trainees and providers representing diverse behavioral health and substance abuse professions.

How much does it cost? Where will students stay?
Students are responsible for their transportation to and from the conference center in Kearney. There are no fees or charges for the conference itself. BHECN pays for lodging in double occupancy hotel rooms for students who travel. Students who live in or near Kearney and do not need hotel lodging are also encouraged to apply to attend the conference. BHECN will provide meals for all attendees during the conference.

Application & Selection:
Students complete the application and short essay, and submit a letter of recommendation.

Application packets must be postmarked by February 13, 2015. Students will be notified whether they are selected by February 27, 2015.

Questions? Contact: Ann Kraft, BHECN Ambassador Program Coordinator
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