Announcing BHECN Kearney
As part of the Behavioral Health Education Center of Nebraska's strategy to grow Nebraska's rural behavioral health workforce, we are proud to announce the launch of our presence at the University of Nebraska-Kearney. The new BHECN Kearney office is located on campus in Welch Hall, Room 206. Read more...

Next to Normal
The Omaha Community Playhouse presented the musical Next to Normal earlier this year. The 2010 Pulitzer Prize for Drama winner, Next to Normal is a deeply moving rock musical and raw account of a family dealing with mental illness, tragedy and the realities of modern society.

We asked several friends of BHECN to share their reflections on Next to Normal and share how the story mirrors some of the real life struggles they have faced in dealing with mental illness in their families. Read more...

Behavioral Health Mentorship Dinner
On February 27, 93 students, faculty, and other guests met for the 5th annual Behavioral Health Mentorship Dinner sponsored by the Behavioral Health Education Center of Nebraska (BHECN) and UNMC’s student Psychiatry Interest Group (PsIG). This year’s event, held at Joslyn Castle, gathered students and mentors from a range of behavioral health disciplines including psychiatry, psychology, and nursing and included students and faculty from both UNMC and Creighton University.

The mentorship dinner connects students, faculty, and practitioners in an informal setting where they can ask real
questions and become better acquainted with professionals in other behavioral health fields. Read more...

CONFERENCES

Annual Conference 2014
Innovative Models of Primary Care Integration and Behavioral Health

Friday, June 20, 2014
8:00 am 1:30 pm

Embassy Suites-LaVista
12520 Westport Drive, La Vista, NE

Cost: $99 ($79 on or before May 23)

Register online at www.unmc.edu/cce

About the conference:
We can produce better outcomes for people with complex health care needs by integrating mental health, substance abuse, and primary care services. The conference will explore models for primary care integration happening in Nebraska and across the country.

Who should attend?
The conference is for both providers and community members and will be of interest to:

- Physicians and physician assistants,
- Nurses and nurse practitioners,
- Psychologists, LMHPs, and other behavioral health providers,
- Healthcare administrators,
- Behavioral health and health care students,
- Policy makers and advocacy groups, and
- Behavioral health consumers.

High School Ambassador Conference to Encourage Students Interested in Behavioral Health Careers
KEARNEY, Neb. - The Behavioral Health Education Center of Nebraska (BHECN) hosted the 2nd annual High School Ambassador Conference in Kearney on April 4 and 5. The BHECN Ambassador Program recruits and mentors rural students from high school through college and professional school and into behavioral health professions. Read more...
**BHECN Welcomes New Staff**

A few new faces have joined the BHECN team in the last few months. Join us in welcoming:

**Heidi Keeler, R.N., Ph.D.**  
**Director of Educational Design**

Dr. Keeler joined the Behavioral Health Education Center of Nebraska (BHECN) as the Director of Educational Design in June 2013. Her areas of research interest are in health promotion, prevention, and advocacy, with a particular interest in adolescent health behaviors. Dr. Keeler is primarily responsible for creating our online learning modules.

**Amy Williams, J.D.**  
**Education and Outreach Coordinator**

Amy joined BHECN in December 2013 as Education and Outreach Coordinator. Before joining BHECN, Amy served as legislative aide to Nebraska State Senator Amanda McGill. While she was with Senator McGill’s office, Amy worked on suicide prevention, co-occurring conditions among incarcerated persons and children’s behavioral health. Amy has been spending a lot of time on the road meeting with providers and consumers across the state.

**Jill Westfall, M.P.A.**  
**Communications Coordinator**

Jill joined BHECN in February 2014 as Communications Coordinator. She joins us after seven years in a similar role at Voices for Children in Nebraska. Jill is responsible for our website, e-newsletter, fliers, and generally making our materials look good.

[Read more...](http://www.unmc.edu/bhecn/newsletters/Newsletter_2014_Spring.html)