Accessing Rural Healthcare Providers & Facilities Utilizing a Statewide Videoconferencing Network

Ragan DuBose-Morris, MA
David R. Garr, MD
South Carolina AHEC – Medical University of South Carolina
SCHOOLS

- South Carolina Health Occupations Outreach Learning System (SCHOOLS)
- HRSA Funded Grant – 2010
- Collaboration of the South Carolina AHEC System
  - Program Office Based at MUSC
  - Four Regional Centers (Lowcountry, Mid-Carolina, Pee Dee & Upstate)
  - 20 Rural Hospitals Across South Carolina
  - Academic Medical Centers
  - PSPN Partner Organizations
SCHOOLS Infrastructure

- Polycom Videoconferencing Equipment
  - Two-Way Audio and Video Communication
  - Content Sharing System for Videos and Slide Presentations

- Polycom Recording Device
  - Legacy Recording
  - Allows for Five Simultaneous Recording & Playback Sessions

- Utilizes Palmetto State Providers Network (PSPN) dedicated broadband network (80+ sites)
SCHOOLS Goals

- Support the development and implementation of collaborative research initiatives across the state
- Facilitate the delivery of educational content by on-campus faculty from MUSC and USC to healthcare providers and students in off-campus sites
- Provide multi-point access for continuing education and training sessions offered through the South Carolina AHEC system
SCHOOLS Content Distribution & Exchange

- Researchers & Educators
- South Carolina AHEC System & SCHOOLS
- Rural Practices
- Rural Hospitals
SCHOOLS Capacity

South Carolina AHEC and the four regional AHEC Centers are able to serve as the primary content distributors to the 20 rural hospitals.

Each AHEC Center and hospital site will be able to communicate directly with each other without utilizing a master scheduler.

Researchers will have access to the 25 SCHOOLS sites for direct access to other researchers, healthcare professionals, students and patients.
SCHOOLS Capacity

South Carolina AHEC and the four regional AHEC Centers can facilitate research collaboration, health professions training and continuing education programming through SCHOOLS.

The AHEC Centers can facilitate educational sessions at individual hospitals.

Students will also be able to communicate directly with their host academic institutions through group sessions led by faculty members and staff at academic health centers.
Equipment is being delivered and will be installed in the 25 locations by mid-December.

Testing and training will be conducted in December and January.

First continuing education programs are planned to occur in late January/early February.

Continued expansion of content and capacity through 2011.
SCHOOLS Summary

Network of 25 videoconferencing locations across South Carolina

Utilizes existing PSPN broadband connection

Available for research, education, training and collaboration

Administered by the South Carolina AHEC – Contacts:
- Ragan DuBose-Morris, MA at duboser@musc.edu
- David R. Garr, MD at garrdr@musc.edu