



# Participant Update

January 23, 2012

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## *Second Annual M-SEARCH Coordinators' Meeting*

You are invited to attend the second Annual M-SEARCH Coordinators' Meeting. Please save this date on your calendar.

**When? April 13, 2012, from 9:00 to 11:30 a.m.**

**Where? Soaring Eagle Conference Center, Mt. Pleasant, MI**

**Why Attend?**

- Meet other M-SEARCH School and Site Coordinators
- Build new relationships
- Create new opportunities for student rotations and provider recruitment
- Discuss best practices with other coordinators
- Receive a program update

**You will receive your Invitation and Registration Form by the end of February.**

## *Program Updates and Information*

### Student, School and Clinical Site Update:

Eight (8) students began an M-SEARCH rotation in Year 3, Quarter 1. Fifteen (15) schools are enrolled in M-SEARCH, and a total of 31 programs from the 15 schools are enrolled. Two out of state schools were approved during Y3Q1. Ninety-two (92) total clinical sites were enrolled by the conclusion of Y3Q1, five of which were approved during the quarter.

### Student Tracking:

The Health Resources and Services Administration (HRSA) requires SEARCH programs to report student tracking information on a quarterly basis. The information that HRSA requires includes: the number of former M-SEARCH students who have gained employment in a HPSA within or outside of Michigan and/or at a NHSC site within or outside of Michigan, and the number of students who applied to either the NHSC Scholarship Program while in school or the NHSC Loan Repayment Program. In response to this federal requirement, M-SEARCH has instituted a process to gather the data. On a quarterly basis M-SEARCH will send a student tracking form to all students who are about to graduate or have graduated and have not returned a tracking form to M-SEARCH. Students who do not respond will receive a second email and in the case that the form is not returned students will receive a follow-up call. In the event a student can not be reached, M-SEARCH may contact the school coordinator for updated student contact information. **M-SEARCH requests all clinical sites that knowingly hire a former M-SEARCH student contact the M-SEARCH Support Team ([msearch@michigan.gov](mailto:msearch@michigan.gov) or 517-853-3945) with the student contact information.** Thank you for assisting M-SEARCH in providing the most comprehensive data to HRSA.

Michigan Area Health Education Center (AHEC):

The MI-AHEC is part of a national program created by Congress in 1971 to recruit, train and retain health professionals committed to medically underserved populations. Wayne State University College of Nursing and School of Medicine received a grant from HRSA in 2010 to establish MI-AHEC. MI-AHEC will develop five regional centers – one of which, Southeast MI-AHEC, is functioning, and one of which is in formation – Mid-Central AHEC is just starting. Each region, encompassing multiple counties, will have a community board. Individual regional centers will conduct community health assessments and analyze existing health data to determine local health priorities. Given the mutual goals of M-SEARCH and the AHEC, collaboration between the two programs has begun in order to identify innovative ways to address recruitment and retention issues for health providers in underserved areas. Please visit the MI-AHEC website ([miahec.wayne.edu](http://miahec.wayne.edu)) for more information, including a brochure and fact sheet and updates on regional activity and community meetings.

Loan Repayment Information:

National Health Service Corps (NHSC):

Students' best strategy for loan repayment may be to apply to the NHSC. The application cycle is now open. Please visit the [NHSC website](#) in order to access the online application system. The NHSC Loan Repayment Program is 100 percent federally funded. This is an advantage over the Michigan State Loan Repayment Program (MSLRP) because the employer is not required to contribute toward the loan repayment contract. However, one of the criteria the NHSC takes into consideration is the Health Professional Shortage Area (HPSA) score of providers' practice sites. The NHSC will provide up to \$60,000 for providers practicing at sites with a HPSA score of 14 or above and those practicing at a site with a HPSA score of 13 or below may receive up to \$40,000.

Michigan State Loan Repayment Program (MSLRP):

The MSLRP also provides loan repayment to primary care providers in underserved areas. Because MSLRP no longer receives state funds to match federal program funds, it must now require employers to contribute 50 percent of their providers' loan repayment contracts. Employers make their contributions in six-month installment payments to spread the cost over multiple budget cycles. The 50 percent employer contribution is the most significant barrier to MSLRP participation. Please see the [MSLRP website](#) for more information.

Backing up the NHSC Applications with an MSLRP Application:

Providers with higher HPSA scores are the most likely to be accepted into the NHSC Loan Repayment Program, therefore MSLRP will not review MSLRP applications of providers with practice site HPSA scores of 12 or greater if they have an active NHSC application or plan to apply during the year 2012. Providers, regardless of their HPSA scores, who have not and will not apply during 2012 to the NHSC will receive priority status in MSLRP application review, eligibility determination, and contract processing. Providers with a practice site score of 11 or less may back up their NHSC applications with an MSLRP application.

M-SEARCH Facebook Page:

Please 'like' M-SEARCH by visiting [www.facebook.com/michigansearch](http://www.facebook.com/michigansearch).

[Click here to find a job opportunity for your students through the National Health Service Corps \(NHSC\)!](#)

***Student Testimonial:***

"I have a high interest of practicing in an underserved community that I did not know existed until I heard about M-SEARCH."  
– Bridgette Waldrup, University of Michigan-Flint, NP student

***M-SEARCH Support Team Contact Information:***

***Phone: 517-853-3945***

***E-mail: [msearch@michigan.gov](mailto:msearch@michigan.gov)***