

# CORPS CONNECTIONS

**SCHOLARS**  
May 2011

## Two New Resources Available for Corps Members!

In an effort to improve customer service for Corps members, NHSC recently launched two new sites, the [NHSC Customer Service Portal](#) and [PrimaryCareForAll.org](#)\*. We encourage you to begin using these resources today! The first will make it easier for you to do business with the Corps and the second provides free training and a virtual way to connect to other NHSC providers.

### Customer Service Portal

The Customer Service Portal is your online tool for conducting business with the Corps 7 days a week, 24 hours a day. It provides Corps members a new, convenient way to access documents and information related to your scholarship.

Login to:

- View your NHSC profile
- Update your personal information
- Ask the NHSC a question
- Submit customer service questions or requests (i.e., site transfers, suspensions)

In February, all scholars received instructions on how to activate their accounts and review personal information. **QUESTIONS?** If you experience any issues accessing your account, contact the Call Center at: 1-800-221-9393 (TTY: 1-877-897-9910).

### PrimaryCareForAll.org\*

This online tool supports the professional development, growth and networking needs of National Health Service Corps scholars. It includes resources designed to help you connect with other NHSC providers already working in underserved communities, and access unique educational materials. Each month new webinars and discussions will be held exclusively for NHSC members –begin exploring today!

Login to:

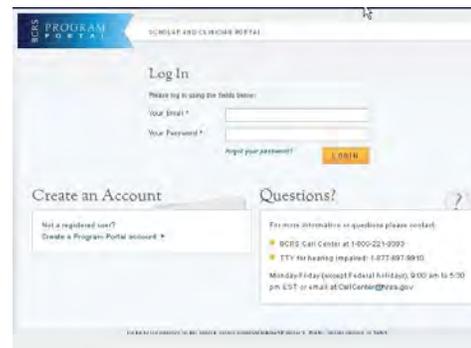
- Access free online courses, as well as other presentations, podcasts, and modules
- Connect with other NHSC members via chat rooms and blogs through a password-protected secure area
- Share and view helpful resources including best practices examples, tools and templates, and links to research

**QUESTIONS?** If you have any questions about how to access your account, please contact [admin@primarycareforall.org](mailto:admin@primarycareforall.org).

\* This Web site was developed in whole under a cooperative agreement with the National Center for Primary Care at Morehouse School of Medicine. Linking to a non-HRSA.gov website does not constitute an endorsement by HRSA or any of its employees of the sponsors or the information and products presented on this website.

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## Meet NHSC Scholar – Seth Rosenblatt

Seth Rosenblatt is a National Health Service Corps (NHSC) scholar who just completed his first year of medical school at George Washington University (GWU) in Washington, DC. When Seth completed his undergraduate studies in psychology and Spanish, he traveled abroad and spent a significant amount of time working with underserved communities. His experiences inspired him to pursue a master's degree in public health with a focus on global health.



After completing his degree and working in program management at an international health agency, Seth decided that he wanted to work directly with patients on a variety of public health issues, so he applied to medical school. He first heard about NHSC from an older sister who was also pursuing a medical degree. Working with the underserved is his calling in life, so being part of the NHSC program was a natural fit. "I knew without a doubt I wanted to give back to underserved communities and the NHSC provided me with the perfect opportunity to pursue my passion."

Seth is taking advantage of the experiences available to him as he completes his training at GWU. Next year, he will assume the role of President of Family Medicine Interest Group at GWU, which will allow him to connect and network with other family physicians in the Washington, DC area. During his time at GWU, he worked as a volunteer for a five-week rotation at the Healing Clinic, a student-run clinic at George Washington that pairs fourth year medical students with first year students. Currently, he is working on a two-year preceptorship at Whitman Walker Health, a Washington DC community health center specializing in HIV/AIDS and lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender care. This summer, he is preparing to work at a community clinic in Honduras, which was arranged through the GWU program.

Seth has been living, working, and learning in Washington, DC for the past seven years and is eager to use the skills he has acquired in medical school and through volunteer and extracurricular experiences to partner with other health care providers in the area. He hopes to someday introduce his patients to the variety of health resources that are available, encourage them to take an active role in their personal health, and facilitate a long-term provider relationship. He would like to stay and continue to serve in the area, since he has already made great connections with other community health providers, but he is also open to working in other urban settings.



**During one of his trips abroad, Seth spent time teaching kids in Thailand about HIV/AIDS.**

# What is a Health Professional Shortage Area (HPSA)...and Why is it Important for NHSC Scholars?

Health Professional Shortage Areas (HPSAs) are designated by the Health Resources and Services Administration as having shortages of primary care medical, dental or mental health providers and may be geographic (a county or service area), demographic (low-income population) or institutional (comprehensive health center, federally qualified health center or other public facility). NHSC scholars must fulfill their service commitment at NHSC-approved sites with the greatest need based on HPSA scores. That score, as required by law, is reviewed each year.

The NHSC anticipates Scholars who are scheduled to be placed at a site during the current 2011-2012 placement cycle will likely be required to serve at NHSC -approved sites with a HPSA score of 17 or higher for most disciplines (Nurse Practitioners and Dentists at sites with a HPSA score of 18 or higher).

## Did you know?

As of September 30, 2009, there are:

- **6,204 Primary Care HPSAs** with 65 million people living in them. It would take 16,643 practitioners to meet their need for primary care providers (a population to practitioner ratio of 2,000:1).
- **4,230 Dental HPSAs** with 49 million people living in them. It would take 9,642 practitioners to meet their need for dental providers (a population to practitioner ratio of 3,000:1).
- **3,291 Mental Health HPSAs** with 80 million people living in them. It would take 5,338 practitioners to meet their need for mental health providers (a population to practitioner ratio of 10,000:1).

Source: HRSA website <http://bhpr.hrsa.gov/shortage/>

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## Tips & Advice for Using the NHSC Job Opportunities List

The [NHSC Job Opportunities List](#) (JOL) is a searchable database of approved job vacancies for NHSC participants. (The only exceptions are those positions that are marked "Volunteer"; volunteer vacancies are paid positions at NHSC-eligible facilities, but are not approved for NHSC participants.) You may also review a complete list of [NHSC approved sites](#), which includes sites eligible for fulfillment of the NHSC service commitment, regardless of whether or not they have current job vacancies.

### JOL Search Instructions:

- Visit [NHSC Job Opportunities List](#)
- To see a range of open opportunities, choose a state only OR choose both state and county
- To see vacancies close to a specific place, select address and provide an address with city AND state OR a zip code
- Select vacancy category: NHSC Scholar
- Choose your discipline
- Projected Hire Date: Leave the default of "before" and leave the date field blank to show all current and future open vacancies for this placement cycle
- Click on the "Find Opportunities" button to return a list of all vacancies within the specified range
- If you find a vacancy of interest, contact the site directly to learn more or to apply



# NHSC Launches New Community Connections Networking Events: San Francisco Event Highlights

This year, the National Health Service Corps (NHSC) is hosting a series of local networking events, [NHSC Community Connections](#), around the country! The first of these events was held on May 18 in the San Francisco Bay Area. NHSC clinicians, scholars, and alumni gathered to network, share experiences and ideas at the University of California, San Francisco Alumni House.

Two special guest speakers also shared their experiences with attendees. **Brian Prystowsky, M.D.**, an NHSC clinician, shared his story about overcoming diagnostic and cultural challenges to address an important public health issue with local academic, public health, and federal collaboration from his position at a Federally Qualified Health Center. **Sharone Abramowitz, M.D.**, a psychiatrist and director of behavioral medicine for the Primary Care Medicine Training Program at the Alameda County Medical Center, discussed self management support, health coaching, motivational interviewing, and how these three concepts were combined into the Premed Health Coach Project at Highland Hospital.

In addition, several local organizations that support the primary care providers also participated in the event, including the California Primary Care Office, Primary Care Association, Office of Rural Health, Universities and State Colleges. NHSC would like to thank the California Primary Care Association for co-hosting this exciting event!

## Make plans to attend an upcoming NHSC Community Connection event in your area!

- [Dallas, Texas](#)  
**Wednesday, June 15, 2011**  
**5:00 - 7:30 p.m.**  
Center for Community Cooperation  
2900 Live Oak Street  
Dallas, Texas 75204  
  
Please contact [nhscdallas@hrsa.gov](mailto:nhscdallas@hrsa.gov)  
for more information or to RSVP by  
May 31.
- [Boston, Massachusetts](#)  
**Thursday, July 14, 2011**  
**4:00 - 7:30 p.m.**  
Massachusetts General Hospital  
O'Keeffe Auditorium  
55 Fruit Street  
Boston, MA 02114  
  
Please contact  
[nhsdboston@hrsa.gov](mailto:nhsdboston@hrsa.gov) for more  
information or to RSVP by June 24.
- **Kansas City, Missouri – (TBD)**  
**Summer 2011**
- **Denver, Colorado – (TBD)**  
**Summer 2011**



## HIV/AIDS Archived Webinar Slides and Audio Now Available



On April 28, 2011, NHSC hosted a new webinar for Corps members, **Responding to the Domestic HIV/AIDS Epidemic: A National Call to Action**. During the webinar **Michael Evanson**, Senior Policy Analyst, Health Resources and Services Administration (HRSA), HIV/AIDS Bureau, discussed the Obama Administration's *National HIV/AIDS Strategy*. Former NHSC Scholar **M. Keith Rawlings, M.D.**, Medical Director and Director of Clinical Research at AIDS Arms, Inc. in Dallas, TX, also provided insights on helpful strategies for prevention, screening, and management.

NHSC clinicians who were unable to participate can now view the archived slides and audio files from the webinar. The presentation can be accessed on the new website [www.PrimaryCareforAll.org](http://www.PrimaryCareforAll.org)\*

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## Nominate a Colleague for the 2011 Presidential Citizens Medal

Each year, the American public is asked to help identify outstanding Americans to receive the Presidential Citizens Medal, the nation's second-highest civilian honor that recognizes everyday heroes in your community. In 2010, 13 recipients were honored – [learn more about these dedicated individuals](#).

If you know of someone who has performed exemplary deeds of service outside of their regular jobs and provided inspiration for others to serve, please nominate them for this honor. [View the full criteria and submit a nomination](#). **The deadline to submit a nomination is May 30, 2011.**



THE 2011 PRESIDENTIAL  
CITIZENS MEDAL

Submit a Nomination

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## Collegiate Health Service Corps Program – Getting Students Involved in Underserved Communities

The Collegiate Health Service Corps (CHSC) exposes undergraduate students to health careers through service learning experiences that promote culturally and linguistically competent preventive health care to medically underserved communities. Last year, the CHSC program expanded the pilot program to five states throughout the country with each program providing meaningful educational experiences to 75-100 college students. The five participating states include Florida, Louisiana, New York, Tennessee, and Utah.

This program is a partnership between the AHECs (Area Health Education Centers), universities and colleges, and NHSC sites. Each program will include interactive workshops, CPR and First-Aid Certification and 75 hours of service-learning at a NHSC site and a pre-determined service learning project.

So far, 309 CHSC students have participated in the training and will be preparing to begin their service. NHSC hopes to share additional program updates in 2011!

# Office of Regional Operations – How They Can Help!

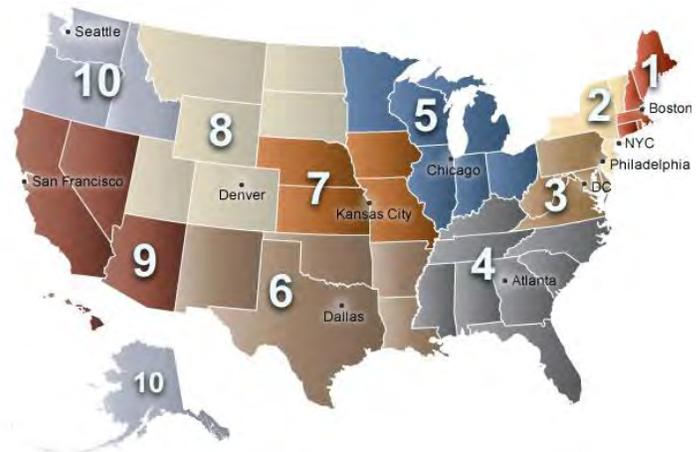
The Health Resources and Services Administration maintains roughly 10 percent of its staff in 10 different regional offices located across the United States. The Bureau of Clinician Recruitment and Service's Division of Regional Operations staff members are a great resource for NHSC scholars. Contact your regional office representative to learn more and see how they can help support you and your future work in underserved communities. Regional office staff can help to:

- ✓ Identify in-services at health professional training and residency programs
- ✓ Maintain contact with and answer questions of Scholars while they are in residency
- ✓ Introduce Scholars to primary care providers, organizations and leaders in their state and community
- ✓ Assist with scholar placement at sites
- ✓ Connect scholars to the safety net in their community
  - Clinical rotations
  - Preceptorships
  - Community service opportunities

## Regional Contacts:

- Region I: Colleen Geib (617) 565-1465  
[cgeib@hrsa.gov](mailto:cgeib@hrsa.gov)
- Region II: Patrick McHugh (212) 264-2806  
[pmchugh@hrsa.gov](mailto:pmchugh@hrsa.gov)
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[ddey@hrsa.gov](mailto:ddey@hrsa.gov)
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[ghlady@hrsa.gov](mailto:ghlady@hrsa.gov)
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[mgarcia@hrsa.gov](mailto:mgarcia@hrsa.gov)

## HRSA Regional Offices



## Questions or Comments?

If you have ideas or suggestions for future issues, please send them to [info@nhscrtsc.net](mailto:info@nhscrtsc.net).




**Contact NHSC**

Call **1-800-221-9393** or  
visit **NHSC.hrsa.gov**

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