Allied Health Education Coalition (AHEC)
PARTNERSHIP LEAD ORGANIZATION – CITY OF SPRINGFIELD

SERVICE AREA
MISSOURI: Christian, Dallas, Greene, Polk, Stone, Taney and Webster counties; and serves all of the cities within the geographic area specified.

GOALS

★ 372 individuals will gain healthcare credentials by 2020
★ 247 unemployed and underemployed workers will obtain employment
★ 73 incumbent workers will advance to a new position
★ Participants will earn a median hourly wage of $18.77

TARGETED POPULATIONS
★ Unemployed and underemployed adults
★ Low-income, veterans, minorities, historically disadvantaged populations
★ Other groups faced with employment barriers

TARGETED INDUSTRY
Healthcare

PARTNERS
★ Employers and Industry Representatives: Burrell Behavioral Health; Citizens Behavioral Health; Clark Community Mental Health Center; CoxHealth; Mercy Health; Missouri Coalition for Community Behavioral Health; Oxford Healthcare; Springfield-Greene County Health Department
★ Workforce Board: Ozark Region Workforce Development Board
★ Economic Development Agencies: Branson Area Chamber of Commerce; Springfield Area Chamber of Commerce
★ Education and Training Providers: AJC Network-Ozark Region; Ozarks Technical Community College
★ Other: Springfield Public Schools

ACHIEVEMENTS
★ Expansion of short-term programs offered has led to higher enrollment numbers
★ Met the target number of enrollments for nurses pursuing an Associate’s of Science in Nursing (ASN)
★ Received over 1,200 applications for America’s Promise Grant

PROGRAM HIGHLIGHTS
★ Develop an accelerated learning program for an Associate’s of Science in Behavioral Health Support Degrees recognized by local employers.
★ The Ozark Region has a significant shortage of nurses and nurse aids. ASN Degrees and Certified Nursing Assistants (CNA) will help to combat this.
★ Short-term certification programs get people into jobs quickly and at higher wages than non-certified positions.
Keisha Watson was working as a licensed practical nurse (LPN) when her friend told her about the America’s Promise Grant offered through Ozarks Technical Community College. Keisha enrolled in the registered nurse (RN) program. She would not have been able to afford the program without the help of the grant. Throughout the program, Keisha needed assistance with her car to continue attending clinicals. The grant helped provide Keisha with new tires to get to and from clinicals. After the program, the grant also assisted Keisha in taking the nursing exam, the NCLEX. Keisha has said that without the grant she would not be a nurse today. She currently works at Mercy Hospital, a grant employer partner.

LeAnna Gray was struggling to stay financially secure when she found out about the America’s Promise Grant. After leaving an abusive relationship, LeAnna came to the area without work experience in the past ten years, as she had previously been a stay-at-home mother. LeAnna entered the Certified Nurse Assistant (CNA) Program and gained her certification within eight weeks. She entered employment as a CNA at a nursing home and was able to become more financially secure. Wanting to better her family and take her education even further, LeAnna applied for the Behavioral Health Support Program through the grant and is currently attending classes to become a Behavioral Health Specialist. Through a close employer partnership with Burrell Behavioral Health, LeAnna will have the opportunity to gain employment immediately following graduation.