

# **Western Maryland AHEC**

**Invest in Youth to Grow Your Own!**

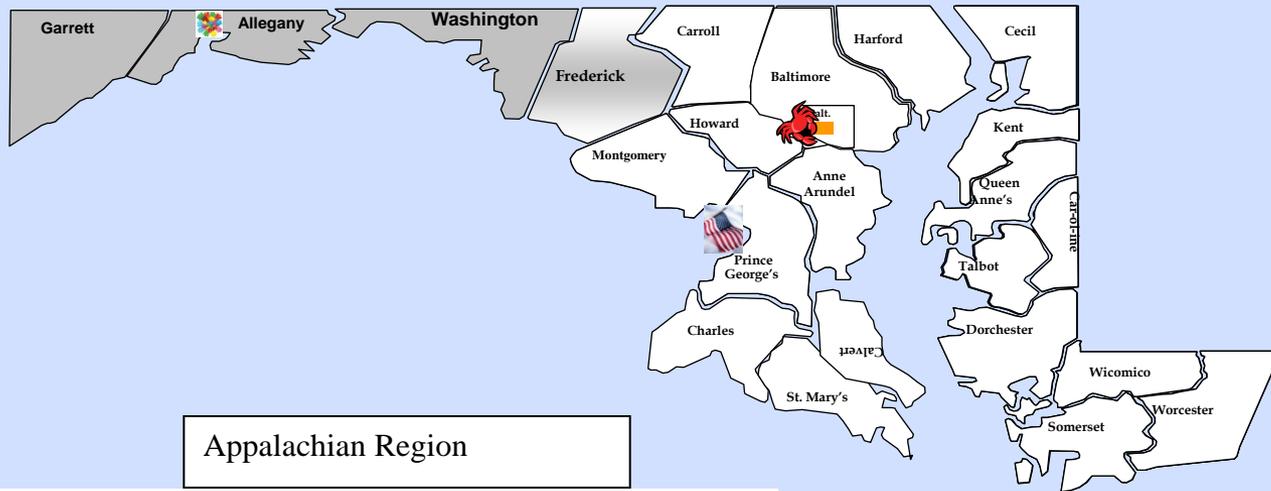
**Build a sustainable health professions  
education pipeline.**



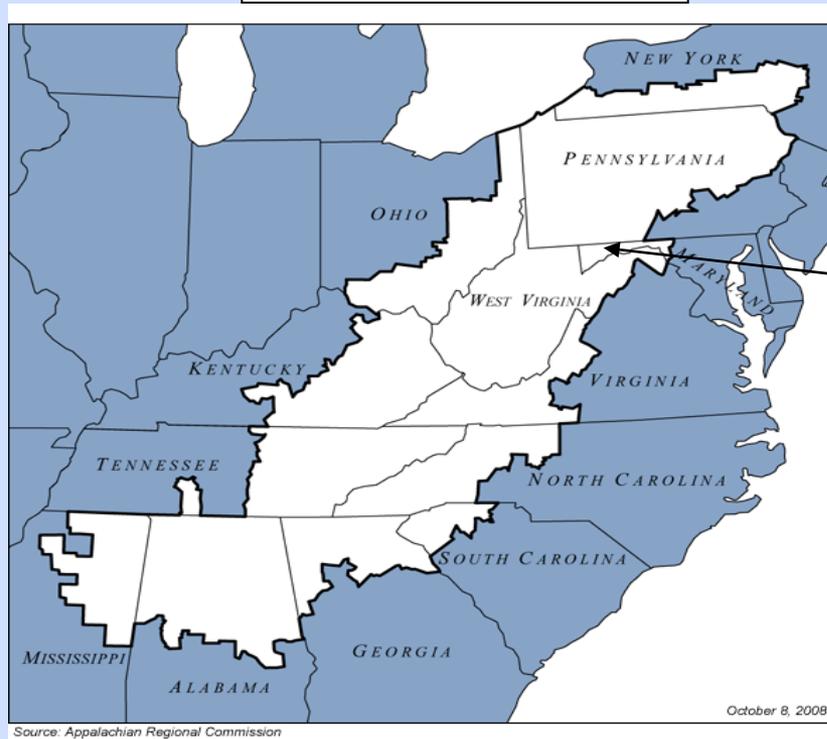
# Mission

To improve **access** to and promote quality  
in health care through educational  
partnerships

# State of Maryland



# Appalachian Region



Garrett and Allegany counties

October 8, 2008

Source: Appalachian Regional Commission

# STEM

- Links K-12 schools with community health professionals
- Experiential partner for health careers
- Helps meet schools' STEM curriculum requirements

- Sustained:
  - +Job shadowing for Anatomy and Physiology students
  - +WMAHEC program participation



# Youth Health Service Corps (YHSC)

- Mission is to recruit diverse high school students into health care careers.
- Program components
  - ◆ Volunteer Service
  - ◆ Service learning Projects (Wii)
  - ◆ Training Curriculum
- 35 – 40 HOSA students per year
- Tracking provided by the school system
- Sustained:
  - + Job shadowing experiences, CPR training, and other volunteer opportunities for HOSA students
  - + WMAHEC program participation

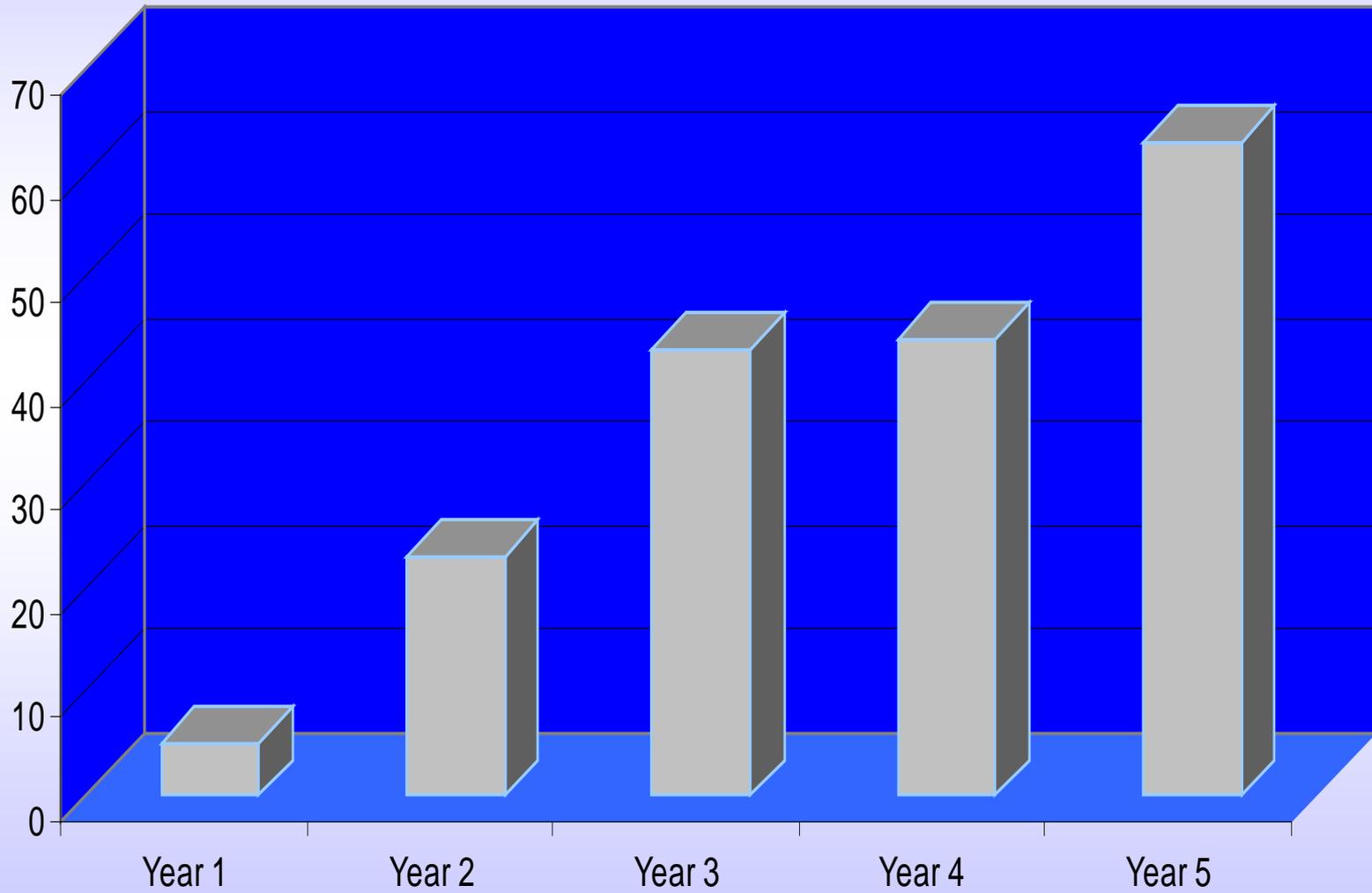


# Exploring Careers in Health Occupations (ECHO)

- Summer Residential
- Visits to healthcare facilities and higher education institutions
- Team building activities (zipline, whitewater rafting, and rappelling)
- Job shadowing, mentoring
- Hands--on use off state-off-the-art medical equipment and surgical simulators
- College entrance advice and prep

# Growth

Participants

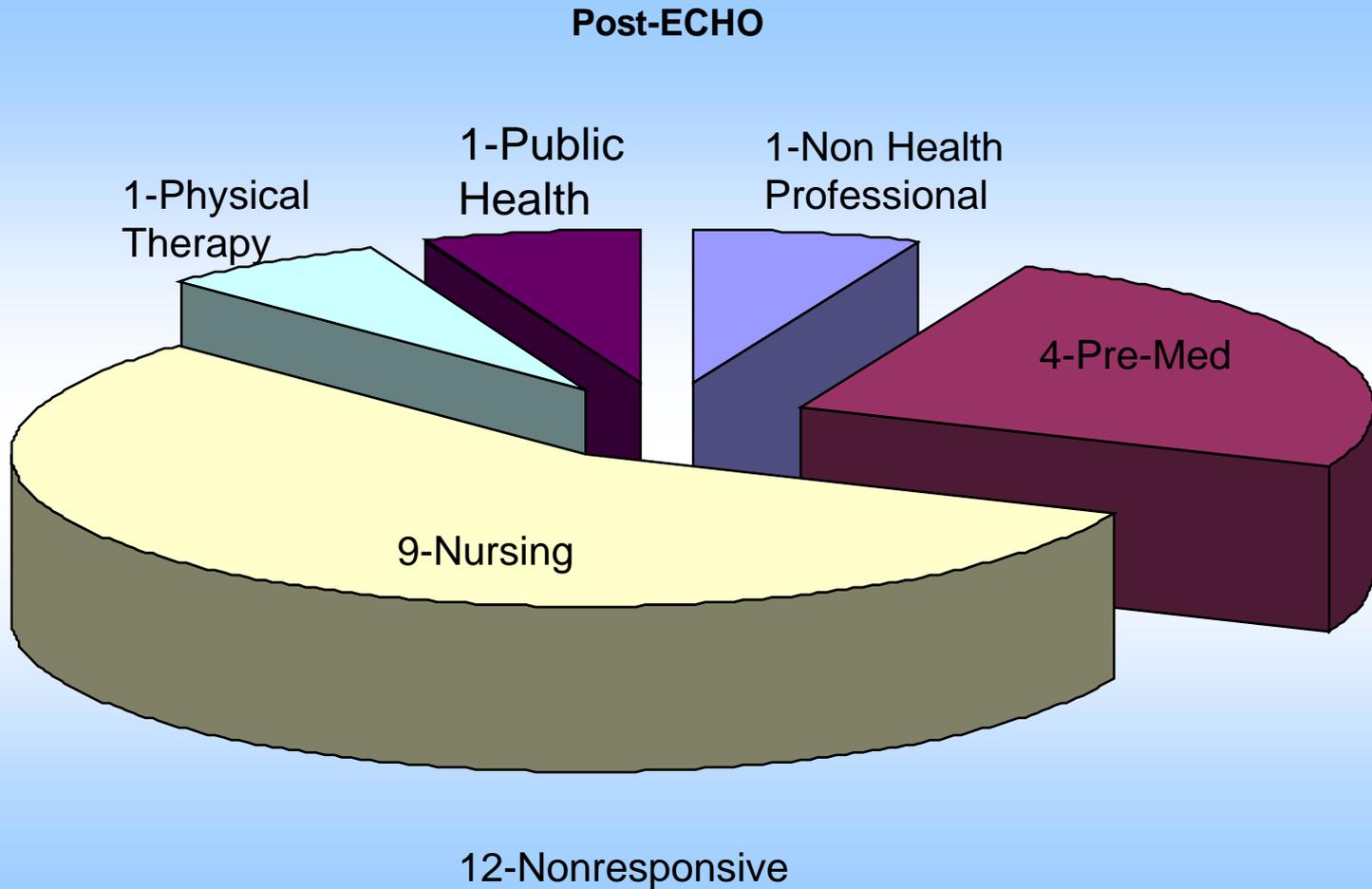


# ECHO, cont'd

- We build relationships with partner facilities
  - ◆ Single point of contact at the AHEC for all issues
  - ◆ AHEC handles all paperwork, training, and logistics
- Training
  - ◆ Universal Precautions
  - ◆ Confidentiality/HIPAA
  - ◆ CPR



# Tracking



# Challenges

- Poor funding climate and budget cuts
- Transportation and housing costs
- Logistics
- Limited access to students for recruiting
- Competition with other programs
- Increased liability concerns
- Tracking is expensive (not always fruitful)

# What our Students Say

- “The program was fantastic! My favorite part was visiting the University of Maryland Anatomy Lab. I will be back next year for Echo 201 and hopefully 301!”
- “ECHO taught me a lot about all the different health careers and I was able to learn while having fun.”
- “My favorite parts of ECHO were the surgical simulation tour, visiting the University of Maryland and getting to tour different hospitals.”

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