



EASTERN AREA HEALTH EDUCATION CENTER  
*For immediate release - April 2019*

**Eastern AHEC Receives \$25,000 Ribbon of Hope Grant  
from NC GlaxoSmithKline Foundation to Develop CHAMP Program in Chowan County**

Chowan County, NC - Eastern Area Health Education Center has received a \$25,000 Ribbon of Hope Grant from the North Carolina GlaxoSmithKline Foundation.

The funds will establish the CHAMP (Choosing Health and Mindfulness Practices) program for more than 150 second grade students and teachers in Chowan County, North Carolina. Throughout the 2019-2020 school year, students will complete modules on obesity prevention and oral health, and teachers will complete modules on mindfulness in schools. These modules will be incorporated into the existing curriculum.

According to the Public School Forum 2018 Roadmap of Need, 39% of Chowan County's children aged 6-11 live below the poverty level and 31.8% of the children live in food insecure households. In 2016-2017, randomized dental screening of kindergartners in Chowan County and 13 other northeastern NC counties revealed 17.9% had untreated decay with only 3.7% of the children having at least one sealant present, according to the NC Department of Health and Human Services.

The goals of the CHAMP program are to improve knowledge and skills in obesity prevention and oral health that second grade children and their parents can use to make good health decisions and to increase the students' self-awareness and knowledge of health careers.

The partner organizations for CHAMP are Eastern Area Health Education Center, Edenton-Chowan Schools, and Albemarle Regional Health Services, with support from East Carolina University School of Dental Medicine - Elizabeth City Service Learning Center.

Ribbon of Hope grants support activities that advance science, health, and education in local communities across the state of North Carolina. These grants provide non-profit organizations with a one-time opportunity to develop a new initiative or expand/enhance an existing project.

**About Eastern AHEC**

*With the purpose of strengthening healthcare in eastern NC by nurturing current and future providers, Eastern AHEC is a nonprofit that serves 23 counties in our region. We strive to be the bridge between healthcare and education in our region by positively influencing health outcomes in the region — and by adhering to our mission statement: "Eastern AHEC is an advanced resource for healthcare providers, from student to expert." Visit us at [www.easternahec.net](http://www.easternahec.net).*

**About the NC GlaxoSmithKline Foundation**

*The North Carolina GlaxoSmithKline Foundation is an independent self-funding 501(c)3 nonprofit organization supporting activities that help meet the educational and health needs of today's society and future generations. Since its creation in 1986, the foundation has granted \$75.18 million to support North Carolina projects and programs that emphasize the understanding and application of science, health and education at all academic and professional levels. Visit us at [NCGSKFoundation.org](http://NCGSKFoundation.org).*

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