The South Dakota Area Health Education Center (SD AHEC) Program Office’s mission statement is “connecting students to careers, professionals to communities and communities to better health.” This is accomplished through a variety of programming and partnerships such as Rural Experiences for Health Professions Students that pairs students from different disciplines with rural communities for interdisciplinary immersion experiences. Additionally, the AHEC Scholars program has allowed SD AHEC to link students with interests in IPE with resources and help them gain valuable experiences that will positively impact the care they give patients in the future.

There are several NAO membership benefits that Susan values, including the peer support she receives through collaboration and networking. NAO’s timely updates on public policy keep her program and centers informed. Additionally, the biennial conference provides further opportunities to collaborate, educate and strengthen local and national partnerships.

SD AHEC is fortunate to have many partners and stakeholders across the state of South Dakota that facilitate programming and collaboration in a variety of activities. The communities and the centers are fully engaged in promoting workforce development and improved health and wellness in South Dakota.

The primary reasons that Susan is a member of NAO is to keep up-to-date on policies as they ultimately impact patients and healthcare delivery across the country, to access resources to better serve the population of South Dakota, and to network with other AHEC programs and centers across the country.

Meet NAO PROGRAM Member, Susan Anderson

Susan Anderson M.D., F.A.A.F.P., South Dakota AHEC Program Office Director

“The NAO provides us with a several opportunities to collaborate, educate and strengthen local and national partnerships.”

-Susan Anderson