

Paula Overfelt

President

**National Area Health Education Centers (AHEC) Organization
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Paula Overfelt is the President of the National Area Health Education Centers (AHEC) Organization (NAO). She leads the NAO with over 42 years of hands on experience in the healthcare field. Prior to becoming president of the organization, Paula started as a member with the organization in 2008. Since then, she has served the NAO through numerous leadership capacities, some of which included being the Co-Chair of the NAO Conference Planning Committee, the Chair of NAO's Center Directors Constituency Group, and a Board member of the NAO.

In addition to her service with the NAO, Paula also functions as the Executive Director of the Northwest Missouri (NWMO) AHEC with Mosaic Life Care. As Executive Director, she is responsible for administration and day-to-day operations, fiscal management, grants management, project management, evaluation, and supervision of the staff of NWMO AHEC.

The NWMO AHEC serves 19 counties in northwest Missouri. Paula's AHEC utilizes relationship building and maintenance with students, providers, universities, medical schools, high schools and their administration and teachers, community groups, state and national associations. Under her leadership, the NWMO AHEC plays an active role in advancing success in Veteran's Mental Health, the Healthcare Marketplace, and the Centers for Disease Control's HPV immunization initiative.

During Paula's 17-year tenure with the NWMO AHEC, she has been actively involved in not only the NWMO AHEC, but also the Northwest Missouri community and the greater AHEC network itself. Currently, Paula is proud to work with over 150 physician and nurse practitioners serving as preceptors across Northwest Missouri through the NWMO. Many of the same physicians and nurses she now works with started locally as high school students and now serve as teachers and mentors to future healthcare professionals.