



YOUTH BEHAVIORAL HEALTH CAREERS INSTITUTE

FAQs

BACKGROUND

What is the Appalachian Children Coalition?

The Appalachian Children Coalition (ACC) is a 501(c)3 nonprofit dedicated to enhancing the health and well-being of children across Ohio's 32-county Appalachian region. Driven by a mission to uplift children's lives through collaborative advocacy and strategic investments, ACC has forged impactful partnerships since 2020. These partnerships have enabled the redirection of resources toward a robust support infrastructure tailored to the region's unique child needs. ACC's initiatives focus on behavioral health workforce development, prevention education, school-based health services, and regional responsiveness, comprehensively addressing the diverse needs of children in the communities it serves. Operating as advocates for those serving children, ACC remains resolute in ensuring every Appalachian Ohio child has equitable access to resources for holistic development and well-being.

What is Behavioral Health?

Behavioral health is a broad branch of healthcare specifically focused on social, emotional, and mental well-being. This professional field often includes working with individuals who struggle with mental illness, behavioral problems, or unhealthy lifestyle habits. Behavioral health encompasses a multitude of needs and diverse professions, offering numerous career paths and opportunities.

Why Behavioral Health?

Choosing a career in mental and behavioral health allows you to positively impact individuals' lives and the overall health and well-being of communities. The Appalachian Ohio region needs behavioral health professionals to ensure that children and families have access to the care and support they need in school, at home, and in their communities.

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What is the Institute?

The Youth Behavioral Health Careers Institute is a summer program organized by the Appalachian Children Coalition, aimed at introducing high school students in Appalachian Ohio to careers in the mental and behavioral health sector. This initiative seeks to create a pipeline for these students to gain hands-on experience through internships, pursue relevant educational opportunities, and ultimately secure employment in the region's behavioral health field.

Who should attend?

This institute is intended for high school students in Appalachian Ohio interested in learning more about mental and behavioral health careers.

Why should I attend?

During this hands-on, full-day event, you will have the chance to explore a range of careers within the mental and behavioral health domain, including counseling, social work, social services, specialized therapy, and more. You will engage in networking sessions with professionals and fellow students, while also gaining valuable team building and communication skills.

What are the learning objectives?

Students who attend will be able to:

- Understand the various roles and responsibilities within the mental and behavioral health field, including counselors, therapists, psychologists, social workers, and other related professions.
- Gain knowledge about education and training requirements for different careers in this field, such as degree programs, certifications, and licensure.

- Develop an awareness of the importance of mental health and well-being and learn about strategies and resources for maintaining positive mental health.
- Explore the diverse settings and populations that mental and behavioral health professionals work with, such as schools, hospitals, community centers, and specific age groups or populations.
- Identify the skills and personal qualities that are essential for success in mental and behavioral health careers, such as empathy, active listening, problem-solving, and cultural competence.
- Learn about the current trends, challenges, and emerging areas within the mental and behavioral health field, and how professionals adapt to meet evolving needs.
- Develop teamwork, communication, and interpersonal skills through collaborative activities and networking opportunities with peers and professionals.
- Gain exposure to real-life scenarios and case studies that illustrate the practical application of mental and behavioral health principles and interventions.
- Understand the ethical principles and professional standards that guide the practice of mental and behavioral health professionals.
- Explore career pathways, job prospects, and potential for professional growth and development within the mental and behavioral health field.

What is the cost?

This is a free event.

How long does the institute run?

This event is from 9 a.m. until 3:30 p.m.

What will be provided?

An early morning snack, lunch, afternoon snack, attendee t-shirt, and giveaways will be provided.

How do I register?

[Click here](#) to link to the online registration form.

What are the locations of the Institute?

The Youth Behavioral Health Careers Institute will be offered in two locations for the summer of 2024. The locations, dates, and times are listed below:

- Shawnee State University
 - Wednesday, June 19th
 - 940 Second Street Portsmouth, Ohio 45662
 - Campus website with directions:
 - [Shawnee State Campus Map & Directions | Visit SSU Today](#)
- Washington State College of Ohio
 - Tuesday, July 16th
 - 710 Colegate Dr, Marietta, OH 45750
 - Campus website with directions:
 - [Campus Map - Washington State College of Ohio \(wsco.edu\)](#)