

# Southeast Public Health Training Center

Kentucky North Carolina South Carolina Tennessee Virginia West Virginia

## Summary of the PHTC

The stories of the Southeast Public Health Training Center (SPHTC) are not so much the stories of those trained, but more the stories of those whose job it is to strengthen the public health workforce. West Virginia, Virginia, North and South Carolina, Tennessee and Kentucky are six states in very different positions with regard to public health training infrastructure. KY, NC and SC have a long history of delivering training, while TN, WV and VA have increasing demands for workforce development and no clear way to deliver it. The regional coloration has fostered linkages and technical exchange that had never existed before and facilitated the sharing of resources. SPHTC represents a partnership between academic and practice partners in Kentucky, North Carolina, South Carolina, Tennessee, Virginia and West Virginia. The practice partner in each state is the state health department. Academic partners are:

- **The University of North Carolina School of Public Health**
- The Kentucky School of Public Health
- **Norman J. Arnold School of Public Health at the University of South Carolina**
- The University of Tennessee, Knoxville
- West Virginia University
- Eastern Virginia Medical School

## Impact of the PHTC

- In the past year, the Southeast Public Health Training Center (SPHTC) facilitated training for 17,541 public health workers in Kentucky, North Carolina, South Carolina, Tennessee, Virginia and West Virginia.
- In North Carolina, the SPHTC is facilitating linkages between all the four-year nursing programs and local health departments as a way of preparing, recruiting and retaining public health nurses—the largest segment of the public health workforce and the segment facing the most critical shortages. This is the first time that schools of nursing are sharing resources among themselves, which strengthens the faculty as well as the students.
- The goals of SPHTC are not only to deliver training, but also to strengthen the infrastructure of each state to develop and deliver life-long learning from continuing professional education to degree programs. This is being done by strengthening the relationships between academic programs and state and local health departments. In Virginia, a network has been established to foster collaboration between the faculty of all the public health programs in the state, so that they can respond to the workforce training needs outlined at the state level. This type of collaboration between MPH programs has never happened before, and they have moved from competitors to collaborators.