**OVERVIEW OF THE GEC NETWORK IN 2014**

* A network of 45 Geriatric Education Centers (GECs) in 34 states provide best practice and evidence-based geriatric education to healthcare professionals and students from all disciplines. Several of the GECs cover multiple states while others serve regions of our larger states, such as California and Texas.
* GECs are funded under Title VII of the Pubic Health Service Act along with the Geriatric Academic Career Award program (GACA), and Geriatric Training for Physicians, Dentists and Behavioral and Mental Health Professionals program.
* For FY 2010, the President recommended and the House provided $41.997 million, unfortunately the final bill included only $34 million. Funding in FY 2014 was $33.321 million. For FY 2015, the President recommended $33.321 million and the Senate Labor HHS-Education Appropriations subcommittee allocated $34.237 million.
* About 1/2 of the GECs provide education for areas that are more than 50% rural; 1/4 focus training in areas that are 25-49% rural.
* In the 2012-2013 Academic Year, the GECs provided over 1,650 different continuing education courses to approximately **94,000** health care professionals and students from disciplines such as medicine, nursing, allied health, health services administration, social work, and psychology. The ballooning number of older adults in this country demands a healthcare workforce that is prepared to provide appropriate, competent and cost-effective care. That is the mission of the GECs.
* GECs currently—
	+ provide hundreds of hours per year of continuing education programs in geriatrics for practicing health professionals from all disciplines;
	+ provide didactic and clinical training opportunities in geriatrics for health professional students and promote interprofessional, team-based approaches to care and care coordination;
	+ collaborate with acute care, long-term care and community-based service providers on Evidence-Based Practice Programs designed to reduce rates and improve outcomes of care relating to delirium, depression, falls, pain, and diabetes in older adults;
	+ provide 160-hour interprofessional Faculty Development Programs to prepare faculty to teach geriatrics and interprofessional team-based care;
	+ provide opportunities for healthcare providers in underserved, rural and remote areas of the country to learn from and consult with top experts in geriatric care through Interactive Televideo (ITV) and synchronous Webcasts; and
	+ make available thousands of hours of online geriatric education programs that healthcare professionals can access 24-hours per day.