

## School of Arts and Sciences

**October 6, 2024**

Dear Members of the FAHE Awards Committee,

I am writing to nominate the paper “Challenges of EHR ‘Meaningful Use’ in Rural Health Centers” by Brightharp et al. for consideration for the Foundation for the Advancement of Health Education’s (FAHE) Ann E. Nolte Writing Award. This paper makes significant contribution to health education and health promotion literature by focusing on the intersection of technology, health disparities, and rural health challenges.

Brightharp et al. provide a comprehensive analysis of challenges and opportunities surrounding the use of electronic health records (EHRs) by health promotion practitioners in rural settings. They showcase the potential of EHRs as tools for enhancing population health management and offer insights into how technology can be leveraged to improve health outcomes in underserved populations. Public health efforts have long aimed to understand and mitigate inequities across different populations. By disaggregating health data, health promotion practitioners can identify disparities among different populations and effectively target interventions to the people most affected.

Notably, patients in rural areas may not receive the same level of care or health monitoring as those in urban centers due to inadequate access to technology, workforce limitations, and budget constraints. If rural health clinics lack the capacity to effectively use their EHRs, it may compromise their ability to provide accurate health information to patients. To that end, this paper also highlights the importance of collaborative partnerships that can lend technical support and expertise to rural health clinics. From an historical perspective, this paper situates the discussion of EHR use within an historical trend towards modernizing health care through technology.

This paper is deserving of the Ann E. Nolte Writing Award for the way it demonstrates how health promotion strategies that prioritize data disaggregation (for better-targeted health education interventions), invest in workforce training, and leverage collaborative partnerships can support more equitable health care delivery, especially in rural areas.

Thank you very much for your consideration.

Sincerely,



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