

In the Spotlight



Name: Beth Landon

Title: Director, Alaska Center for Rural Health

Work Location: University of Alaska, Anchorage, AK

Beth Landon directs the Alaska Center for Rural Health – Alaska’s AHEC, which is the country’s first AHEC housed in a School of Nursing. In this capacity at the University of Alaska Anchorage, Ms. Landon is responsible for building and coordinating the AHEC Program, leading various health workforce development committees, conducting research in and for frontier communities, publishing the only statewide newsletter focused on rural health, and supporting mechanisms to improve coordination and sustainability of Alaska’s complex rural and frontier health care system.

Ms. Landon’s research experience spans a dozen years and reaches from rural to frontier areas in Alaska and the northwest. Ms. Landon started with community-based participatory research to assess health needs in communities and tribal health organizations and expanded to federally-funded evaluations and statewide health professions workforce studies. Her work in the past five years has been funded by the Health Resources and Services Administration’s Office of Rural Health Policy, National Institute of Environmental Health Sciences, Alaska Science & Technology Foundation, State of Alaska and University of Alaska. Projects have reached from an integrated literature review and assessment of attrition factors in Alaska’s Community Health Aides/Practitioners (published in the *Journal of Rural Health*), evaluation of telepsychiatry, assessing benefits & risks of traditional foods in Aleut villages, documenting recruitment expenditures, and documenting health workforce vacancies. She is currently responsible for the evaluation of the Frontier Extended Stay Clinic demonstration project, documenting the workload and work stresses faced by our nation’s most isolated clinics towards creation of a new provider type.

Ms. Landon is President of the National Rural Health Association. Her six years of service on the Board of Trustees and the Rural Health Policy Congress have included five years as Chair of the Frontier Constituency Group, lead author of a nursing workforce policy brief, lead author on a dental health aide policy statement, essential contributor on a Title VII policy brief, leader of a nine state collaboration towards agreement on a HPSA designation, and leader of the Alaska Experience Project that enabled 150 NRHA Annual Conference 2007 registrants to spend a day in remote Alaska. This last endeavor garnered for her the 2007 NRHA Volunteer of the Year Award.

Ms. Landon has a Bachelor of Science degree in biology from Occidental College. She has a Master of Business Administration and Master of Health Services Administration from the University of Washington.