Reviewer’s report

Title: Area Health Education Center (AHEC) Programs for Rural and Underrepresented Minority Students in the Alabama Black Belt

Version: 0 Date: 04 Apr 2017

Reviewer: Takele Demie

Reviewer’s report:

Comments on the Title (Topic);

The title is too long. Could it be shortened? There are words or phrases repeated like West Alabama. Could it be removes? Also you can cancel the last words (using qualitative and Quantitative Methods) and you can explain within the methods section of the manuscript. Rather it is better to mention the country (USA) to indicate the specific country in your Topic.

Keywords: you used too many (more than the recommended number of words for keywords (which is not more than 8)

Abstracts: In methods section; it is good to mention the number of participants (How many students were participated in the enrichment activities) because abstract should be standalone.

Background: Line number 37 (don’t start a line (statement) with number/percent/abbreviation. Please would you like to make it Sixty five percent?

For me it is good to change Background to Introduction. What do you think/feel about this?

Also your background (Could it be Introduction?) is not indicated the objective(s) of the study (Evaluation) and not linked with the significance of the study (Why Evaluation?)

Comments on the Methods section;

- It is better to express the time period (from when (month) to which month it covered; like from May 2013 to June 2014) Or during the year length from January 2013 to November 2014 (if it conducted throughout the year). The statement of Line 21 under the first sub-section of the methods section Should be changed to make it more clear fro the reader; like it can be changed to "-----those available participants to partake the various enrichment programs; participants from an undeserved county in the 13-county service area; and interested participants in pursuing health career in a rural or undeserved community."

- The last words of the statement in Line 28 ".... to determine interest in program participation." is not clear. would you like to clarify? For me it is good if you say ".......... to determine interested students..."; unless it is not clear. who (what) is to be determined?
- line 2 "... most sessions..."; How many sessions (or what percent of the planned sessions)?

- Context, Participants, and Recruitment; Please make it clear for participants: who are the participants? how many participants partake the program?

- Under Data collection: How many students attended the pilot programs? consider revising the paragraphs on page 9 because it is too long and difficult for the reader to comprehend. I mean, since the paragraph it to large and it take the whole page (boring to read it), consider breakdown into smaller paragraphs.

**Level of interest**

Please indicate how interesting you found the manuscript:

An article whose findings are important to those with closely related research interests

**Quality of written English**

Please indicate the quality of language in the manuscript:

Acceptable

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Please complete a declaration of competing interests, considering the following questions:

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