



University Spotlight

Texas A & M University

Student Interview – Edgar Morgan

University Spotlight Program Description: The program recognizes Bachelor and Master Degree programs that prepare students for healthcare career opportunities. It also promotes student development while building community partnerships and increasing HFMA's member participation.

Student Introduction: My name is Edgar Morgan and I am currently a Master in Health Administration Candidate at Texas A&M University School of Public Health. Recently, I had the opportunity to participate in the HFMA University Spotlight program.

Purpose: As a part of the program, I was selected to attend an HFMA Monthly luncheon at Houston Methodist Hospital, hear a guest speaker and interview an attendee. The luncheon's guest speaker was Evan Smith, CEO and founder of Texas Tribune. His objectives were to provide us with an overview of his predictions of the most recent national election's impact on Texas. As part of an organization that provides nonpartisan coverage of Texas politics and public policies across the airwaves, Mr. Smith presented what some might consider a statistician's analysis of where the votes went and why.

Q & A

Luncheon Attendee: Ed Tyrrell, SVP Houston Methodist

1. Where do you work?

Ed Tyrrell is a Senior Vice President at Houston Methodist (HM) in Houston, Texas, where he has responsibility for Corporate Financial Services. Mr. Tyrrell is a CPA and a fellow in the American College of Health Care Executives and holds a Bachelor's degree in accounting, and an MBA from the State University of New York at Buffalo. Before joining HM 28 years ago, he was a Manager in the audit department at Ernst & Young. At HM, in

his SVP role, he coordinates the following services across the HM enterprise: accounting and reporting, budgeting, Medicare and Medicaid reimbursement, federal, state and employment tax compliance and reporting, treasury, accounts payable, revenue cycle, insurance, decision support, and work force analytics. The HM enterprise consists of 7, soon to be 8 hospitals, a specialty group of employed physicians, a primary care group of employed physician groups, a Research Institute, a Global arm, a Medical Office buildings Corporation and a Foundation.

2. Are you an HFMA member?

Mr. Tyrrell is a former HFMA Member.

3. What was your reason for attending today's luncheon?

When asked why he attended this luncheon, Mr. Tyrrell noted that it's important for him to stay current with what is happening in the health care world. From a management perspective, Tyrrell referred to this event as an opportunity to interact with fellow professionals, "see what's going on," and earn CPE credits for his CPA license.

4. What was the biggest take away?

When asked what was his biggest take-away from this event's guest speaker, Tyrrell found the presentation overall reinforcing, and entertaining. We both agreed that the majority of the presentation was focused on voting statistics, and didn't provide a lot of insight into how the election results might impact the future of healthcare. However, Tyrrell found the access to healthcare topic to be significant. Despite the fact that Texas has 5 of the top 20 largest cities in the country (San Antonio, Houston, Dallas, Austin, and Fort Worth), there is insufficient access to care in rural areas, which impacts at least 4.3 million Texas residents (Texas Medical Association, 2016). As a state with world-renowned medical institutions, chief among them the Texas Medical Center, Mr. Tyrrell was concerned about the lack of services to rural communities. Aligning with Smith, Tyrrell indicated the importance of developing solutions to improve access in a fiscally responsible way. An astounding statistic from Mr. Smith's talk was the forecasted population changes from Anglo to Hispanic. It will "change the face of the state in particular," as Tyrrell noted.

5. Final thoughts?

As we concluded, Mr. Tyrrell noted that with a new Administration in Washington, it will be important for Federal, State and local governments to work together to develop cost effective and sustainable care delivery models.