

Message from Your ACHE Regent  
Summer 2019

### **Shifting Trends in Student involvement**

In my first year as Regent for Massachusetts I formed a group to assist me to assess and understand **the Higher Education Network (HEN) membership**. At meetings of ACHE with Regents from across the country they report decreasing involvement of students and challenges connecting with programs as more study is online. It's no different in Massachusetts. Our tradition of visiting all programs and doing an in-person presentation on the benefits of ACHE membership and value of Fellow certification has fallen by the wayside. We set out to discover what was going on in our network and how we could more effectively connect with graduate students and faculty. **I want to thank Christopher Louis, PhD, Assistant Professor, Boston University School of Public Health, faculty representative to ACHE of MA, John Christoforo, FACHE, Nathan Burke, Erika Mortenson, David Reisman, FACHE and Richard Gregg for their invaluable insights and recommendations.**

### **HEN Membership in Massachusetts**

In Massachusetts we are fortunate to have many institutions of higher learning and outstanding graduate programs for healthcare executives. To date we have 12 programs in our network which include:

- Bay Path University
- Boston College
- Boston University School of Public Health
- Boston University Questrom School of Business
- Brandeis University
- Framingham State University
- New England College of Business
- Northeastern University
- Simmons University
- Stonehill College

- Suffolk University
- University of Massachusetts-Lowell
- Worcester State University

These programs apply to become a part of HEN to access benefits for their students and instill a lifelong commitment to professional growth and association membership.

### **Benefits include:**

Access to scholarships to assist tuition, attendance at ACHE Congress in Chicago, significantly discounted fees for all ACHE of Massachusetts events and the opportunity to be appointed as one of 3 student representatives to the board. In addition there is one seat on the board for a program director.

Over last spring calls were scheduled with the program directors of each program and themes emerged:

1. Each program varies in how they support interest in ACHE and take advantage of the benefits of the being a HEN school.
2. There is turnover among the leaders of these programs and they may not be aware of what it means to be in the HEN.
3. In person presentations, though valuable, are very challenging to achieve given academic calendars, distance learning and individual schedules.
4. ACHE has no direct access to students and it occurs through the leader of the program.
5. Leaders of these programs were very engaged and interested in accessing the benefits of ACHE for their students and encouraging professional growth well beyond their formal education but frequently were not aware of what was available.

The HEN outreach Committee is trialing innovations based on feedback from our HEN program leaders and student board members.

1. **A biannual webinar for all HEN program directors.** The first Webex is schedule for October 9, 2019 at 10:30 a.m.-11 a.m. Save the date emails will go out at the end of August.
2. **Career Navigation event to be held in February, 2020** at Suffolk University. This promises to be a high value event with potential employers, career navigation advice, resume review and networking.
3. **Create a one stop page on the website for HEN program directors.**

4. **Offer a mentorship program specifically for students** run by the Early Careerist Network.
5. **Recognition and awards** for Higher education achievement to be determined.
6. **Continue to offer in-person presentation** from ACHE members to promote ACHE membership to students by members who are alumni.

**Evidence shows that professional association membership and strong networking is critical to long term career advancement and success.** This is why ACHE takes academic and student involvement seriously. I've been impressed by some of our program directors in MA who require ACHE membership, integrate use of ACHE tools for career navigation into their curriculum and take advantage of the scholarships available to students.

We are fortunate to have a strong chapter that has dedicated significant funding to student support and have a strong mission to integrate academia with real world needs of healthcare leaders. As we pass the torch as senior, mid or even early careerist executives, your support, whether it be involvement in the mentorship program or encouraging involvement in ACHE is an important part of your own legacy and commitment to leadership excellence.

Enjoy the waning days of summer and I hope to see many of you at a number of programs planned for the fall. Visit <http://www.massache.org/>.

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