



A Message From Your ACHE of Massachusetts President

Dear Members of ACHE of MA,

In just the past month, I've met with 4 different healthcare executives seeking informational interviews, all expressing the same theme of feeling ready for their next professional challenge, knowing that networking is the key to identifying the right growth opportunity, but realizing that their closest contacts are people within their own division, department, organization or area of expertise. With a mixture of honesty about their discomfort with the "sales" aspect of "networking," combined with a twinge of regret for focusing exclusively on the day-to-day demands and priorities of the past few years, each has said they wished they had spent just a little more time cultivating a wider network. When I asked if they are a member of ACHE, each of them responded with, "Yes.....hmmm...I hadn't thought of that as a potential resource."



I'm sure you've had similar conversations or had the same thoughts yourself. If so, here's a quick reminder that ACHE offers terrific educational programs - here locally in Massachusetts we're proud of the fact that this year we'll be offering 34 different events (that's an average of 3 per month) for healthcare executives. But beyond the educational content, ACHE provides an ideal forum for connecting with colleagues within the profession. Members often forget that they have access to the members-only ACHE Membership Directory on ache.org to find contacts; you might reach out to a few people in the directory and strike out, but most are more than happy to get to know and help a fellow ACHE member. Even better, expand your network by volunteering for a leadership role within ACHE. It provides a great platform not only for making the initial introductions to people from a range of local healthcare organizations but also for forging real relationships with those people, over a longitudinal period and in a way that allows you to grow and showcase your talents. Sure, time is always tight, but dedicating even a few hours a month to serve the profession can allow you to connect to greater purpose and to new people as well. And don't worry - no "sales" skills required - just approach it with the genuine mindset of learning and growing your viewpoints and perspective, and the deepened network becomes a secondary benefit to the larger goal of improving your contributions to this industry.

Feel free to reach out if you'd like to learn more about opportunities to serve this chapter and your own professional network at the same time. I especially encourage those of you that are Fellows to consider running for ACHE Regent for Massachusetts (more details within this newsletter). Having served in that capacity from 2009-2012, I can honestly say that it falls within my top 3 most rewarding professional experiences to date.

In closing, we had an ACHE of MA Board Meeting earlier this month at which we said thank you to outgoing board member Rick Gregg, MA, MBA, Chair of the Healthcare Administration Department at Suffolk University. Rick is unmatched in his advocacy of his students and alumni, and he brought that same level of passion and commitment to his support of ACHE of MA. We are so grateful for his service to the chapter and look forward to continued collaboration with him through our Higher Education Network. Welcome to Chris Louis, PhD, MHA from Boston University, who has now started his board term as Faculty Associate and has already generated

some interesting ideas for student engagement that we'll be interested to implement. In keeping with our strategic goal to ensure board transparency and accessibility, we also welcomed five ACHE of MA members to attend the meeting as guests. We hope they learned more about the chapter, and we certainly also learned from them through their thoughtful questions and feedback. In that spirit, if you have suggestions for how our chapter can best meet your professional needs, I encourage you to send us a note at info@massache.org.

Sincerely,
Andrea Paciello, FACHE
President, ACHE of Massachusetts