



An Independent Chapter of



American College of  
Healthcare Executives  
*for leaders who care*<sup>®</sup>

## Arkansas Health Executives Forum January 2021 *Special Edition*

### A Message from Your AHEF President

As we kick off 2021, there are several things I want to bring your attention to...

*Happy New Year  
2021*

First, I want to congratulate both ACHE Regent Award Winners - Judy Wooten, FACHE, President and CEO of Arkansas Hospice in North Little Rock, named Senior Level Healthcare Executive and Michael Wood, DPT, Director of Inpatient and Outpatient Rehabilitation Services for Mena Regional Health System, named the Early Career Healthcare Executive. Congratulations on your very deserving acknowledgement!

Second, AHEF had several individuals recognized for their service to ACHE and AHEF. Make sure you read page two for more information on these individuals and make sure you are reporting your service hours into [ACHE.org](https://www.ache.org).

Third, 2021 will bring many opportunities for ACHE Face-to-Face education and networking. MHA Program at UAMS and AHEF are looking to revitalize the Mentorship Program - this is a great way for health care executives to partner with an MHA student and also earn community service hours as part of FACHE requirement. AHEF has also been hard at work planning virtual education (see page three), but don't forget that ACHE Congress is also virtual this year - both are great ways to earn Face-to-Face hours without having to leave your home/office.

And finally, I want to thank all of the AHEF Board Members, both new and returning. The COVID-19 pandemic has made their roles as board members tough; however, they are committed to leading the chapter and its members with new and innovative ways of thinking. If you have any thoughts on how we can better serve you, our member, please don't hesitate to reach out to any of us.

We look forward to this New Year and the amazing opportunities we have to serve our communities and state!

Sincerely,

Greg Crain, FACHE  
President, Baptist Health Medical Center-Little Rock  
AHEF President



## **AHEF News**

### **2020 ACHE Regent's Awards**

Each year, American College of Healthcare Executive Regents have the opportunity to provide awards for outstanding healthcare executive leadership in their jurisdiction.

The Regent's Awards recognize exemplary leadership of both Early Career and Senior Level healthcare executives.

Those honored demonstrate innovative and creative management skills, contribute to the development of others in the healthcare profession and demonstrate leadership in local and state hospital and health association activities.

Congratulations to Judy Wooten, FACHE, President and CEO of Arkansas Hospice in North Little Rock, named Senior Level Healthcare Executive and Michael Wood, DPT, Director of Inpatient and Outpatient Rehabilitation Services for Mena Regional Health System, named the Early Career Healthcare Executive.



**Judy Wooten, FACHE**



**Michael Wood, DPT**

### **ACHE Recognition Service Awards**

The American College of Healthcare Executives is recognizing four of Arkansas Health Executives Forum members for their contributions to healthcare management excellence through their volunteer service to the chapter, ACHE and the profession.

Congratulations to:

Michael Givens, FACHE, 3 Star Fellow – Exemplary Service Award

Dr. Saleema Karim, 1 Star Member – Service Award

Marion “Tony” Thompson, FACHE, 1 Star Fellow – Service Award

Steven Webb, FACHE, 1 Star Fellow – Service Award

These individuals will be recognized at the first 2021 Virtual Panel.

## **2020 AHEF Chapter Management Award**

The Arkansas Health Executives Forum was notified in December 2020, that it had earned a 2020 Chapter Management Award for its 2019 performance. The American College of Healthcare Executives thanked AHEF for its hard work and provided a plaque for 2020 Chapter Management and Awards Program, Award for Sustained Performance. AHEF was also recognized as a 2020 Chapter of Distinction.

## **2021 Face-to-Face Virtual Panels**

In 2020, AHEF provided six (6) Face-to-Face hours through ACHE Virtual Panels. The AHEF Board of Directors is once again planning virtual panels for 2021.

Currently, the following panels are being developed:

**[March 12, 2021 | 12:00 noon – 1:30 p.m.](#)**

### **COVID-19: An Epidemiological Perspective**

- Dr. Dirk Haselow, Epidemiologist and Associate Medical Director for Infection Prevention, Baptist Health System (Moderator)
- Dr. John Norwood, Infectious Disease, St. Bernards Medical Center
- Dr. Amanda Novack, Medical Director of Infection Prevention, Baptist Health
- Dr. David Ratcliff, Chief Medical Officer, Washington Regional Medical Center

*This event has been submitted to ACHE for approval & will be available for registration soon.*

**[April 14, 2021 | 12:00 noon – 1:30 p.m.](#)**

### **Healthcare Innovation & the Sustainability of Healthcare Organizations**

**[May 19, 2021 | 12:00 noon – 1:30 p.m.](#)**

### **Diversity and Inclusion**

**[June 9, 2021 | 12:00 noon – 1:30 p.m.](#)**

### **Telehealth**

*Titles, dates and times are tentative. Once panel members are confirmed, these items may change.*

## **ACHE Congress**

ACHE Congress is set for March 22-25, 2021 and will be held virtually. This is a great opportunity to hear from national speakers and earn face-to-face hours without having to leave the state.

Registration is now open. Click on the picture below to visit Congress' website and to learn more:



## **MHSA Program at UAMS-AHEF Mentorship Program**

The MHSA Program at UAMS and AHEF are looking to rejoin our partnership with pairing Arkansas executive healthcare leaders with healthcare administration graduate students as part of the Mentorship program at UAMS. The goal of the mentorship program is to provide professional, educational, and beneficial relationships between our students and current healthcare leadership.

This unique online opportunity allows for collaboration for students and executive leaders in the current pandemic. As well volunteering time will go towards community service hours as part of FACHE requirement. The ideal mentor will be sharing first-hand experience, and valuable advice to your mentee, as they navigate the rigors of healthcare administration.

If you would like to volunteer as a mentor and/or would like additional information, please contact Todd Hamilton, UAMS' AHEF Student Networking Committee Chair, by email at [THamilton2@uams.edu](mailto:THamilton2@uams.edu) or visit the following website: [publichealth.uams.edu/academics/masters/msha/mha-mentorship-progam/](http://publichealth.uams.edu/academics/masters/msha/mha-mentorship-progam/).

## **AHEF Members and Fellows**

Welcome to the January 2021 AHEF new member and congratulations to AHEF's two new ACHE Fellows!

### **New Members**

Tonya Morgan, BS, MHA  
AVP of Operations  
CARTI, Little Rock

### **Congratulations to...**

**Gary Paxson, President & CEO  
White River Health System in Batesville**

and

**Vincent Turner, AVP – Continuum of Care  
St. Bernards Medical Center in Jonesboro**

Both passed the Board of Governors Exam in late 2020 and are now Fellows!!!



## 2021 AHEF Board Members

### **President**

Greg Crain, FACHE, President, Baptist Health Medical Center-Little Rock

### **Vice President**

Adam Head, FACHE, President & CEO, CARTI, Little Rock

### **Secretary/Treasurer**

Michael Myers, VP, TRICARE Operations, Little Rock Air Force Base

### **Past-President**

Steven Webb, FACHE, President & CEO, Unity Health, Searcy

### **Director**

Kim Miller, President of Baptist Health Western Region, Baptist Health-Fort Smith

### **ACHE Regent; Nominating/Recruiting**

Michael Givens, FACHE, Administrator, St. Bernards Medical Center, Jonesboro

### **Education**

Lyndsey Dumas, Vice President of Education, Arkansas Hospital Association, Little Rock

### **Awards**

Gary Paxson, FACHE, President & CEO, White River Health System, Batesville

### **Career Development**

Debra Wright, CEO, Howard Memorial Hospital, Nashville

### **Audit/Budget**

Phillip Gilmore, FACHE, CEO, Ashley County Medical Center

### **Culture and Diversity**

Dr. Saleema Karim, Asst Professor, Dept of Health Policy & Management, UAMS Medical Center, Little Rock

### **ACHE Student Network President**

Todd Hamilton, MHSA Graduate Student, UAMS Fay W. Boozman College of Public Health, Little Rock

Visit [ahef.ache.org](http://ahef.ache.org) for more information on AHEF.

To update your contact information, you must visit <https://www.ache.org/>, log into your account and make the correct edits. AHEF board members do not have access to edit any member's information.