



FALL 2025 NEWSLETTER

President's Message



As we enter the fall and holiday season, your ACHE of Louisiana Chapter Board and Committee Chairs are busy making plans on how to finish 2025 strong with education and networking events and plan our activities for 2026. We are so lucky to have a committed group of ACHE leaders on our Board and committees focused on mentorship and professional advancement of our members.

This work has not gone unnoticed by ACHE National! I have just been informed that our ACHE of Louisiana Chapter has been awarded the 2025 Regent-at-Large Award for Chapter Accomplishment in Engagement! Please join me celebrating this honor for advancing healthcare management excellence by attending a networking or education event between now and the end of the year so we can continue supporting our future leaders in healthcare with distinction in Louisiana!

With Appreciation,

Dionne Viator, CPA, FACHE, CGMA
ACHE of Louisiana Chapter President

Education

October 24 | Alexandria, LA | 3.0 In-Person Education Credits

Location: Rapides Regional Medical Center Heliport, 198 North 3rd St

- 10:30 a.m. – 12:00 p.m.: *Developing High Performing Teams*
- 12:00 p.m. – 12:30 p.m.: Lunch & Networking
- 12:30 – 2:00 p.m.: *Interdependence of Public, Private, and Federal Healthcare Delivery*
- Register on [Eventbrite](#)

Recruit a new ACHE of Louisiana member by **Oct. 15th** and your registration for this event is on us! That individual should list you as the referring member during registration. Then send an email [here](#) with the new member's name or forward your email from ACHE Leader to Leader points stating a new member was referred by you.

November 13 | Virtual Session | 1.5 Virtual Interactive Credits

Topic: *Inclusive Leadership in Healthcare*

Join Phyllis Peoples, Curry Allen, and Dr. Sabrina Morris as they discuss leadership in healthcare, share experiences in guiding organizational culture, and how to foster a commitment to creating environments where patients, families, and staff can thrive. Time is 12:00 p.m. – 1:30 p.m. A registration link will be sent via email and posted to LinkedIn in the coming weeks.

November 20 | Virtual Session | 3.0 Virtual Interactive Credits

Topics: *The Healthcare Organization's Role in Public Policy and Financial Sustainability of Healthcare*

Time is TBD. A registration link will be sent via email and posted to LinkedIn in the coming weeks.

Recognition of New Fellows

Congratulations to **Brian Crawford, Amy Dysart-Credeur, Michelle Huck, Joel Landry, Dr. Robert Peltier, and Dylan Thriffiley** who have recently advanced to Fellow. Four out of six participated in the Fellow Advancement Program this summer under the leadership of Dr. Rich Priore.

Mentorship: The power of SMILE in Healthcare Leadership

By Kristina Gray, PhD(c), MBA/HCM, CRA, CPCS and Chair of the Mentorship Committee

Mentorship is the epitome of what a professional can provide to those seeking guidance within the American College of Healthcare Executives (ACHE) community. Mentorship is more than a relationship – it is a service to the profession, a commitment to the growth of others, and ultimately, a dedication to the patients and communities we serve.

If each professional were to think of mentorship as a “SMILE,” it becomes an easy reminder of the true impact mentorship has in advancing healthcare leadership.

- **S = Service to the Profession.** Mentorship reflects a higher calling. An embodiment of ACHE's mission to advance healthcare leadership excellence for the benefit of not only patients but also the communities we serve. By giving back as a mentor, there is the ability to strengthen the profession and ensure its long-term vitality.
- **M = Mutual Growth.** Both mentors and mentees benefit through fresh perspectives, continual learning, and deeper engagement. This shared growth strengthens individuals and the broader healthcare leadership community.
- **I = Innovation.** A strong mentor-mentee relationship fosters innovation, equipping mentees with the tools to embrace new ideas, navigate change, and lead transformation in healthcare delivery, policy, and operations.
- **L = Leadership Development.** Mentors guide mentees in the ability to develop the skills and competencies critical for success in today's complex healthcare environment, preparing them to step confidently into future leadership roles.
- **E = Ethical Guidance.** Mentorship provides a foundation of support for decision making aligned with ACHE's Code of Ethics, ensuring integrity and accountability remain at the core of leadership.

When mentors and mentees view through the lens of a SMILE, the partnership becomes more than a professional courtesy. It becomes a legacy. There is an equal service to the profession passing along knowledge, modeling ethical leadership, and empowering the next generation of healthcare executives.

If you would like to become a mentor or mentee, please reach out to me via the Louisiana Chapter of ACHE [website](#).

Commentary on Community Impact

Paving the Road to Health Equity: A Framework for Leadership, Innovation, and Impact

Renada Deschamp, Founder and Principal Consultant of FD Paige Consultants, LLC, and a member of the ACHE of Louisiana Community Impact & Health Equity Committee, has shared her insights on health equity in an [article](#) now available on the ACHE of Louisiana website. We are grateful for her contribution and encourage you to take time to read her thoughtful perspective.

Fellow Spotlight – Kirk Soileau, FACHE

Kirk Soileau, FACHE, serves as CEO of Natchitoches Regional Medical Center in Natchitoches, Louisiana. He has previously served as president of the state chapter of ACHE.

What do you feel is the value of the FACHE designation?

First, I believe the ACHE as an entity is one of the premier professional organizations in the country. I have always strongly advocated to my colleagues and peers the value of membership and active participation. The FACHE designation is indicative of a leader's engagement and the by-product of continuous learning throughout one's career. The rigor of face-to-face education, collegial engagement, and participation with professionals from around the country cannot be underestimated. I attribute much of my professional growth, development, and career success to both my ACHE membership and FACHE designation.



What is one thing that has or continues to surprise you in your career?

At this point in my career, looking back on how I started, first as a Registered Nurse, then clinical manager, department leader, vice-president and now Chief Executive Officer, what has surprised me the most is the continuous change in healthcare both from a delivery and access for care by our customers. We often don't recognize the insidious nature of change until you look back at a point in time.

As I have always told my teams and colleagues, when you stop looking at the inevitability of change as an opportunity and view it as an obstacle, then it is probably time to step aside. Thus, my challenge to emerging leaders is to always look at change as an opportunity to improve the health and wellness of those we serve. At some point, each of us will step aside for new leadership to replace us. Did we embrace change in a way that allows those that follow us an opportunity to build on a legacy of CARING FOR OUR COMMUNITY?

What are recommendations for early careerists?

My strong recommendation for early careerists is to get involved in your professional organizations, especially the ACHE. Go to regional meetings and take advantage of local face-to-face learnings. Volunteer to serve on committees at work, your professional organizations, and community.

Be willing to work hard, and sacrifice in the short term for long-term career growth. What I mean by that; if you have a career aspiration to advance to a senior leadership position one day, you will need the experience and a track record of managing and successfully leading teams. Starting my career as an RN, I would not be where I am today had I not been willing to leave the comfort of my clinical world and take on additional department responsibilities. At some point throughout my career, I have been responsible for every aspect of a healthcare organization, whether it be clinical areas, operational units, or support departments. And as you grow professionally within your existing facility or into an all-new organization, never forget to work your "last day as HARD as your first day!"

Connect with a mentor! Over my career, I have been fortunate to have had several outstanding leaders who saw "something" in me because of my drive and work ethic. Seek out a mentor from someone you respect. Be willing to ask for advice and counsel. Truly engaged leaders will

always embrace the opportunity to mentor. Our ACHE of Louisiana Chapter offers mentoring opportunities for early and mid-careerists. I have mentored a number of early careerists over the years and am in a mentoring role even today. Nothing gives me greater privilege than to support our profession's future leaders.

Fun facts!

I love to surround myself with family and friends watching sports and anything outdoors. I also love to cook. Being from South Louisiana, we surround all our celebrations and life events with food. A number of years back, I made it to the last round of MASTER CHEF with my version of Corn, Shrimp, and Crab Soup! It is ridiculously good!

Our seven grandchildren always want POPS cooking for them.

Sponsor Spotlight – Kent Design Build

Who We Are

Since 1996, Kent Design Build has delivered full-service building solutions across the Gulf South. Headquartered in Covington, LA, with a regional office in Lafayette, we've grown to over 100 employees while staying true to the focus that has guided us for nearly 30 years: building lasting relationships through transparency, value, and an unwavering commitment to our clients' best interests.

Our Process

Kent is a recognized leader in the design-build delivery method, with deep experience in construction manager at risk, design-assist, and bid-build projects. Our collaborative approach means every project benefits from the specialized expertise of our entire team—not just those on site. Guided by our core values of Belief, Unity, Integrity, Life, and Deliver, we bring consistency, efficiency, and innovation to every project.

Our People

People are the strength of Kent Design Build. Each project is led by a dedicated daily team, backed by a deep bench of specialists who provide the right expertise at the right time. This structure ensures clients receive the full measure of Kent's knowledge, creativity, and attention to detail. President and founder Kyle Kent continues to lead with the same vision he began nearly three decades ago: delivering a people-first building experience unlike any other.

Healthcare Experience

Healthcare is at the heart of what we do. With over 200 completed healthcare projects and over \$90 million currently under contract, Kent has partnered with leading health systems to deliver patient-focused, technically complex facilities. Our portfolio includes:

- 26 MRI installations
- 22 PET/CTs and CTs
- 75+ patient care areas
- 47 medical office buildings
- 16 pharmacies
- 11 cath labs and 4 LINAC vault rooms

From diagnostic imaging centers to surgical expansions, patient care suites, and full clinical campuses, Kent has the experience to deliver at every level. As a trusted Turnkey Imaging Partner for Canon, GE, Philips, and Siemens, we bring unmatched expertise in imaging environments. Notable clients include Ochsner Health and Our Lady of Lourdes RMC, where we've delivered transformative projects ranging from ground-up outpatient clinics to operating room expansions.

Turnkey Partnerships

Through our sister companies—ProPharma Cleanrooms, CBP Millworks, Kent Interiors, and

Gulf South Metal Works—we provide seamless, turnkey solutions. From custom millwork and interior furnishings to cleanroom expertise and pre-engineered metal buildings, our integrated services streamline budgets, accelerate schedules, and ensure cost-conscious, patient-centered results.

Our Customers

With over 140 repeat clients, Kent Design Build is trusted by over 20 health systems across the Gulf South. For us, success isn't measured only in square footage built—it's seen in the relationships we've built and the communities we've helped strengthen.

Kent Design Build – Healthcare Built. Impact Measured.

Chapter Website:

<https://louisiana.ache.org/>

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