

President's Message



Dear all,

First, I would like to extend my sincere thanks to everyone who took the time to complete the ACHE member survey over the past several weeks. While our Chapter-specific results are not yet available, we look forward to sharing the findings and our action plan in the next newsletter.

As always, your ACHE Board and Committee Chairs remain committed to enhancing the member experience, with a continued focus on delivering value and maintaining strong communication with our members.

We are also thrilled to share that our Fellow Advancement Course, led by Tulane Professor Rich Priore, has reached its largest enrollment ever, with 29 participants. The sessions are off to a strong start, and we are excited to support this outstanding group as they pursue their FACHE designation. If becoming a Fellow is one of your professional goals, this course is an excellent resource. If you would like to learn more about the program or how to prepare for next year's cohort, please feel free to reach out to Rich directly at rpriore@tulane.edu.

In addition, I encourage you to join us at one of the educational or networking events planned for this summer or consider becoming involved with one of our committees. Your engagement is what makes our Chapter strong, and we look forward to connecting with you throughout the year.

Warmly,

Dionne Viator, CPA, FACHE
ACHE of Louisiana President

Education Programming

ACHE must approve each education program topic and speaker panel before registration opens to members. Our current priority is to secure speakers for the remaining 2026 education events listed below.

- The Business Case for Leadership Development: Aligning Talent, Culture, and Performance
- Successfully Leading Change in Healthcare Organizations
- Developing Mentoring and Coaching Skills
- Ethical Challenges in Healthcare Leadership
- Quality Management Systems: Ensuring High Quality Care

Serving on a panel counts as one of the two healthcare-related volunteer activities required for Fellow applications or recertification. If you are interested in sharing your expertise on one of the topics above, please contact chapter Education Chair Jenny Bono at jbono@jrcola.com.

July Networking Social in Baton Rouge

Mark your calendars! Region 2 will have a networking social on Thursday, July 16th at Bin 77 Bistro & Sidebar, 10111 Perkins Rowe, Suite 160 in Baton Rouge from 5:30-7:00 pm. RSVP to Sarah Mitchell, MitchellS@northoaks.org.

Run for Regent

ACHE is beginning the election process for new Regents to serve on its Council of Regents, the legislative body representing ACHE members. Serving as a Regent offers a meaningful opportunity to demonstrate leadership, share innovative ideas, and support ACHE's mission. Elected Regents will serve a three-year term beginning at the Council of Regents meeting on March 20, 2027. Fellows in good standing who live and work in Louisiana are eligible to run. Interested Fellows must submit an electronic letter of intent to elections@ache.org by **Friday, Sept. 11, 2026** and should use the designated form when submitting. For questions, please contact current Regent April LaFontaine at alafontaine@stph.org.

Recognition of New Fellows

Congratulations to **Christopher Davis, Jerelyn Felton, Bart Folse, Catina Gordon-Oates, Jarod Rybacki, and John Sikes** who have earned the FACHE credential.

Mentorship from the Top Down, and Back Up: A Dual Perspective

Kristina Gray, PhD(c), MBA/HCM, PPMC, CRA, CPCS and Mentorship Chair

When asking about mentorship, most people automatically assume that you are asking about being the mentor, and the struggles and rewards that come with being a mentor. Hardly ever does someone ask about being mentored. What are the struggles? What are the rewards? Is it worth it in the grand scheme of things?



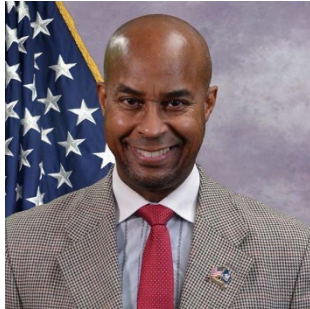
Being mentored can be very challenging, especially the older we get. Some people reach the point where they think they are beyond being mentored, and the older we get, the easier it is to think in this manner. However, in the ever-changing world that we live in today, if you are not being mentored by someone, you have made the wrong choice. Ralph Waldo Emerson said it best I believe; "Our chief want in life is somebody who will make us do what we can." How do you know what you can do without someone mentoring you to find out?

As someone who is being mentored, I can tell you that it is not all pizza and bourbon, wine and roses, or whatever in this world brings you pleasure. I often find myself asking why do I need to be mentored? What do they know that I do not know? And most importantly, why should I listen to them? I am 50 years old, I have seen and done things that would make most people lose their lunch, so why do I need to be mentored? The answer is very simple, my mentor is an expert in her chosen field, and it intersects with my new career field.

I still have days that I question their guidance, because it is the opposite of what I would have normally done. I still have days when I question their actions, once again it is the opposite of what I would have done. What this all boils down to is one word...trust. Do you trust your mentor? Trust comes hard for me. In my first career, trust was sometimes the difference between life and death. There are times that think my mentor has lost their mind, dipped in the Devils Lettuce, been abducted and brainwashed by aliens, or just plain old crazy. But this is

when trust plays the most important role, believing in them and what they say. Just because what they are saying today does not make the most sense, but when it does make sense, you will be very grateful that your mentor cared enough to mentor you, because they do not have to!

Commentary on Community Impact



Building Healthier Communities Through Service

Peter Dancy, Co-Chair Community Impact and Health Equity Committee

"We hold these truths to be self-evident, that all men are created equal, that they are endowed by their Creator with certain unalienable Rights, that among these are Life, Liberty and the pursuit of Happiness."

More than 250 years after these words were written, they continue to inspire our nation and remind us of our shared responsibility to ensure that every individual has the opportunity to live a healthy, productive, and fulfilling life.

For healthcare leaders, that responsibility extends beyond the walls of hospitals, clinics, and healthcare facilities. It includes working to improve the health and well-being of the communities we serve and helping ensure that every individual has access to the resources needed to pursue health, opportunity, and hope.

The ACHE of Louisiana- Community Impact & Health Equity Committee is dedicated to advancing this mission through service, outreach, and community engagement. Our committee seeks to foster meaningful partnerships, support initiatives that address health disparities, and support educational opportunities that emphasize inclusive, interdisciplinary participation, and also efforts that improve the lives of individuals and families throughout Louisiana.

Whether participating in health fairs, supporting educational programs, mentoring future healthcare professionals, or partnering with community organizations, our members are committed to making a lasting difference. We recognize that strong communities are built through collaboration, compassion, and a shared commitment to serving others.

Equally important, we are investing in the future by encouraging and developing the next generation of healthcare leaders. By sharing our experiences, promoting mentorship and leadership development as a strategic priority, and supporting community-based initiatives, we help ensure that the values of service and stewardship continue for years to come.

In support of leadership development, the Committee Impact and Health Equity Committee is actively planning a virtual learning opportunity for health care leaders titled "Ethical Challenges in Healthcare Leadership" that will take place on Thursday, November 12 from Noon – 1:30 PM. A dynamic panel of speakers will share their insights and answer questions. We would encourage you to consider attending.

Finally, the work of the Louisiana Chapter of ACHE reflects the very best of healthcare leadership: a commitment to improving lives, strengthening communities, and creating opportunities for all. Just as our nation's founders sought to establish principles that would guide future generations, we are helping lay a foundation for future healthcare leaders who will continue the important work of serving their communities with compassion, excellence, and integrity.

Thank you in advance for supporting the efforts of the Committee Impact and Health Equity

Committee. In doing so, collectively we can transform our shared values into meaningful action and leave a legacy of service that extends far beyond today.

Fellow Spotlight – U.S. Army Colonel (Retired) Hugh A. McLean Jr., FACHE

In honor of Independence Day, ACHE of Louisiana is pleased to spotlight U.S. Army Colonel (Retired) Hugh A. McLean Jr., Associate Medical Center Director for the Alexandria VA Healthcare System. Since joining the organization in June 2024, he has provided executive leadership and administrative oversight to support high-quality care and services for Veterans across the region.

Mr. McLean brings extensive healthcare leadership experience, having served in senior executive roles within large, complex organizations. Prior to joining VA, he held multiple leadership positions in the U.S. Army Medical Department over a 29-year career, culminating as Deputy Commanding Officer at Womack Army Medical Center in North Carolina. His background includes leading healthcare operations in diverse environments, from major medical centers to integrated health systems, with a focus on strategic planning, organizational transformation, and operational excellence.



His previous assignments include serving as Chief Operating Officer at Tripler Army Medical Center in Honolulu, Hawaii; Commander of U.S. Army Medical Activity at Fort Knox, Kentucky; and Director of Health Plan Management in the Office of the Surgeon General. Throughout his career, Mr. McLean has demonstrated expertise in optimizing healthcare delivery, improving patient outcomes, and fostering innovation.

Mr. McLean matriculated from the University of South Carolina with a Bachelor of Science, Webster University with a Master of Business Administration, Baylor University with a Master of Healthcare Administration, and U.S. Army War College with a Master of Science in Strategic Studies. He is a certified Lean Six Sigma Black Belt and a member of the Upsilon Phi Delta Honor Society for Healthcare Administrators.

Mr. McLean's military decorations include a Legion of Merit, a Bronze Star, and the Order of Military Medical Merit. He is a recipient of the Army Surgeon General's "9A Proficiency Designator," the highest recognition for professional excellence in the Army Medical Department.

Mr. McLean is married to his high school sweetheart, Kathryn Simpkins. Together, they are proud parents of two children: Captain Hayley McLean, D.O., U.S. Army, and Hugh A. McLean III. Outside of work, he values family time and enjoys supporting his children's careers and aspirations, reflecting on his lifelong commitment to service and leadership.



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