

For immediate release

## ACHE Announces Winners of the 2014 Richard J. Stull Student Essay Competition in Healthcare Management

**CHICAGO, March 21, 2014**—The American College of Healthcare Executives announced the winners of its 2014 Richard J. Stull Student Essay Competition in Healthcare Management. The awards will be presented on Wednesday, March 26, 2014, at the Leon I. Gintzig Commemorative Lecture and Luncheon during ACHE's 57th Congress on Healthcare Leadership in Chicago.

**Michael Alex Macfarlane** of the University of Missouri won first place in the graduate division for his essay, "Sustainable Competitive Advantage for Accountable Care Organizations." In the undergraduate division, **Mary J. Wills** of the University of Alabama won first place for her essay, "Decisions Through Data: Analytics in Healthcare."

Macfarlane and Wills each will receive \$3,000 and a plaque. Their schools each will receive \$1,000. The first-place essays will be published in the *Journal of Healthcare Management*, ACHE's official journal.

In the graduate division, **Frank H. Sortino** of the University of Florida took second place for his essay, "Escape Fires: Culture Change and Effective Communication Behaviors for Improving Care." In the undergraduate division, the second-place prize went to **Dulce M. Luevano** of Florida Atlantic University for her essay, "Active Shooter: When a Hospital Needs to Respond to Unexpected Events." The second-place winner in each division will receive \$2,000 and a plaque.

**Tamra L. Smith** of Portland State University won third place in the graduate division for her essay, "High Reliability for Information Privacy and Security." **Amanda C. Lindner** of James Madison University won third place in the undergraduate division for her essay, "Maintaining and Promoting Hospital Quality in an Era of Health Care Reform." Both third-place winners will receive \$1,000 and a plaque.

The purpose of the Richard J. Stull Student Essay Competition in Healthcare Management is to stimulate and demonstrate the ability of future healthcare executives to identify and describe important issues and developments in their chosen profession. It is open to all ACHE Student Associates enrolled in either a graduate or an undergraduate U.S. or Canadian health administration program that is part of ACHE's Higher Education Network. The competition was named in honor of ACHE's fourth CEO, Richard J. Stull, FACHE, who served from 1965 to 1979. For more information and submission guidelines, contact Sheila Brown, chapter specialist of ACHE's Division of Regional Services, at (312) 424-9316 or [sbrown@ache.org](mailto:sbrown@ache.org).

### About the American College of Healthcare Executives

The **American College of Healthcare Executives** is an international professional society of more than 40,000 healthcare executives who lead hospitals, healthcare systems and other healthcare organizations. ACHE offers its prestigious FACHE® credential, signifying board certification in healthcare management. ACHE's established network of 80 chapters provides access to networking, education and career development at the local level. In addition, ACHE is known for its magazine, *Healthcare Executive*, and its career development and public policy programs. Through such efforts, ACHE works toward its goal of being the premier professional society for healthcare executives dedicated to improving healthcare delivery. The **Foundation of the American College of**

**Healthcare Executives** was established to further advance healthcare management excellence through education and research. The Foundation of ACHE is known for its educational programs—including the annual Congress on Healthcare Leadership, which draws more than 4,000 participants—and groundbreaking research. Its publishing division, Health Administration Press, is one of the largest publishers of books and journals on health services management including textbooks for college and university courses.

For additional information, visit [ache.org](http://ache.org).

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