

For Immediate Release

AHA's Institute for Diversity in Health Management, ACHE Announce Strategic Alliance to Expand Health Care Internships for Diverse Individuals

**CHICAGO, Oct. 24, 2016**—The American Hospital Association's Institute for Diversity in Health Management (Institute) and the American College of Healthcare Executives (ACHE) have entered into a strategic alliance to co-promote the Summer Enrichment Program (SEP) to grow and strengthen the pipeline of diverse health care leaders.

As the United States becomes more diverse and the challenges in health care become more complex, the Institute and ACHE are working together to develop and implement strategies designed to increase the number of SEP internships available at hospitals, health systems and other health care organizations. Research has shown that diverse groups and inclusive work environments lead to better patient care, help solve tough problems, innovate new strategies and improve employee engagement.

The SEP places diverse, graduate students pursuing advanced degrees in health care administration or a related field in 10-week, paid internships at health care organizations. Experienced executives mentor the students during the internship and expose them to many facets of health care administration.

"Advancing diversity in workforce, leadership and governance is a critical component of our efforts to provide better, safer care for every individual in every community we serve," said Tomás León, president and CEO of the Institute. "Through this alliance with ACHE—one of the Institute's founding members—we believe we can expand opportunities for minorities interested in careers in health care and develop the next generation of health care leaders."

Since 1994, the Institute has placed more than 1,200 individuals in SEP internships at hospitals, health systems and other health care organizations. Many former SEP participants now hold senior management and board positions at organizations across the country.

"A diverse health care workforce will be best equipped to recognize and address existing gaps in care, effectively improving health for all," said Deborah J. Bowen, FACHE, CAE, president and CEO of ACHE. "ACHE is proud to partner with the Institute in this strategic alliance to diversify health care's leadership ranks through co-promotion of the Summer Enrichment Program."

Hospitals, health systems and other health care organizations that are interested in hosting an SEP intern in 2017 can register beginning Oct. 31. Institute staff will work with organizations to match SEP students with host sites beginning in February. Internships generally will take place from June through August.

For more information about the SEP, visit [www.diversityconnection.org/SEP](http://www.diversityconnection.org/SEP) or contact Jasmin Clark, Institute membership and educational specialist, at [jclark@aha.org](mailto:jclark@aha.org) or 312-422-2658.

#### **About the Institute**

The National Association of Health Services Executives, ACHE and AHA united to create the Institute for Diversity in Health Management in 1994. The Institute is a 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization that works closely with health services organizations and educators to expand leadership opportunities for diverse individuals in health services management. The Institute's mission is to increase the number of minorities in health services administration to better reflect the increasingly diverse communities they serve, and to improve opportunities for professionals already in the health care field. To accomplish this, the Institute has designed several initiatives

to generate significant long-term results through educational programs, summer internships, professional development and leadership conferences. For more information, visit [www.diversityconnection.org](http://www.diversityconnection.org).

### **About ACHE**

The **American College of Healthcare Executives** is an international professional society of 40,000 healthcare executives who lead hospitals, healthcare systems and other healthcare organizations. ACHE's mission is to advance its members and healthcare management excellence. ACHE offers its prestigious FACHE® credential, signifying board certification in healthcare management. ACHE's established network of 79 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 vision of being the preeminent professional society for healthcare executives dedicated to improving health. 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 more information, visit [www.ache.org](http://www.ache.org).

### **Contact:**

Eva Chess, JD  
ACHE  
(312) 424-9420  
[echess@ache.org](mailto:echess@ache.org)

Marie Watteau  
Vice President  
AHA  
(312) 424-9420  
[echess@ache.org](mailto:echess@ache.org)