

The CAHME/Canon Solutions America Award for Sustainability in Healthcare Management Education and Practice

This award recognizes programs that incorporate the ideals of sustainability and social responsibility in healthcare management education and practice. Programs need to demonstrate how they use cultural competency, community involvement, environmental focus, sustainability in curriculum, student experiential opportunities and alumni involvement.

CAHME Accredited or Certified programs are eligible to receive the award.

By completing this form you agree and consent to CAHME's use of personal data for administering this award or for other CAHME activities. See our disclaimer [terms](#) and CAHME [privacy policy](#).

Email *

bhsheingold@gmail.com

CAHME Accredited or Certified Program Confirmation

Applications must be submitted by the Program Director, or a faculty member on behalf of the Program Director, of the CAHME Accredited or Certified program.

Select one of the options below. *

- I am the Program Director of a CAHME Accredited or Certified Program.
- I am a faculty member of a CAHME Accredited or Certified Program who received permission from the Program Director to fill out this application on their behalf.
- I am not a Program Director or faculty member of a CAHME Accredited or Certified program.

Nominator Contact - *Faculty Member*

As a faculty member of a CAHME Accredited or Certified Program, I understand that this application is to be filled out on behalf of my University's Program Director. By completing this application, I give CAHME consent to contact myself and the Program Director regarding any questions or concerns from this application.

Please fill out both you, and your Program Director's, contact information below.

First Name *

Last Name *

Suffix

Email *

.....

Phone Number *

.....

Program Director First Name *

.....

Program Director Last Name *

.....

Program Director Email *

.....

Nominator Contact - Program Director

As Program Director of a CAHME Accredited or Certified Program, I give CAHME consent to contact me regarding any questions or concerns from this application.

Please fill out your information below.

First Name *

Brenda Helen

Last Name *

Sheingold

Suffix

PhD

Email *

bsheingo@gmu.edu

Phone Number *

7039939733

Non-CAHME Accredited or Certified Program

Programs that are not CAHME Accredited or Certified are ineligible for this award. To learn more about CAHME Accredited and Certified programs visit CAHME's website [here](#).

University Information

Fill out your University Program's information below.

University *

George Mason University

University Address *

4400 University Drive

Program Name *

Master's in Health System Management

Select Curriculum *

- Healthcare Management
- Healthcare Quality and Safety
- Population Health Management
- Other: _____

In what year did your program receive initial CAHME Accreditation or Certification?

2009

Nomination Essays

The application consists of four short essays. **We recommend typing your essay responses in a saved document outside of the form in case of technical difficulties. You may copy and paste from your personal document to the form when you are ready.**

1. In no more than 250 words (limit to 1,250 characters) provide a short overview of your program, including how it meets the mission of [CAHME](#). (If you are applying to multiple awards, you can copy this response.)
2. Canon's philosophy is Kyosei defined as "all people, regardless of race, religion, or culture, harmoniously living and working together into the future." Taking a broader view of sustainability as a combination of cultural competency, community involvement, environmental focus, and accessibility. In no more than 500 words (limit to 2,500 characters), explain how your program manifests sustainability ideals using required and elective courses; alumni sharing their knowledge and practical experiences with current students; and experiential opportunities like internships, fellowships, or residencies.
3. In no more than 150 words (limit to 600 character) explain how your program is committed to sustainability initiatives.
4. In no more than 150 words (limit to 600 character) explain how your program will utilize the grant to further support sustainability initiatives.

In no more than 250 words (limit to 1,250 characters) provide a short overview of your Program, * including how it meets the mission of CAHME.

George Mason University (GMU) is the largest public university in the Commonwealth of Virginia. Our program allows students to complete a CAHME accredited MHA degree while working full time, and often while balancing family life. We align with CAHME's mission to serve the public interest by providing individuals who are unable to enroll in graduate school full-time with a path forward. Students are accommodated with a year-round curriculum, rolling admissions, evening classes & generous financial aid packages. A significant number of our students are first generation advanced degree graduates. Since initially receiving CAHME accreditation in 2009, we expanded access to high-quality MHA education through an online platform which received CAHME accreditation in 2019. An academic partnership with Peregrine Global Services in 2022 provided benchmark data demonstrating that GMU performs 4.67% higher on overall outbound competency measurement compared to the MHA aggregate. GMU competency strengths are Healthcare Law (12.89% above aggregate), Risk Management (11.2% above aggregate) and Information Management (10.1% above aggregate).



Canon's philosophy is Kyosei defined as *"all people, regardless of race, religion, or culture, harmoniously living and working together into the future."* Taking a broader view of sustainability as a combination of cultural competency, community involvement, environmental focus, and accessibility. In no more than 500 words (limit to 2,500 characters), explain how your program manifests sustainability ideals using required and elective courses; alumni sharing their knowledge and practical experiences with current students; and experiential opportunities like internships, fellowships, or residencies.

Sustainability in Required and Elective Courses – In the Leadership and Organizational Behavior (core course), students complete Resiliency training and earn a digital badge. Expenses for this learning opportunity are covered 100% by GMU. Completion of credential requirements is supervised by the GMU Center for the Advancement of Well Being. Peregrine scores for Organizational Climate and Culture, measured 2.38% higher than the national aggregate benchmark.

Sustainability in Interdisciplinary Learning – This month, GMU became the 1st and only College of Public Health in Virginia. As a result of the new School of Public Health designation for our program, a new interdisciplinary core course for MHA students will debut in the Fall, 2023. Graduate students from nursing, nutrition, social work, and global health will join MHA students in this new course.

Sustainability in Alumni Sharing – The Strategic Management and Marketing in Health Care core course was redesigned in 2022 to include a robust presence of MHA alumni each of whom advise/guide student teams of 3 students throughout the semester during class time. The new alumni mentor experience is popular among students, many of whom have volunteered to be mentors after they graduate & current alumni mentors want to return.

Sustainability in Experiential Opportunities – the MHA Capstone course is the culminating experience in the program. Students are required to complete 120 clock hours in an approved health care delivery system, community clinic, consulting firm, association or GMU community partner agency to complete a field project with a preceptor. Exemplars of partner agencies are Johns Hopkins Health, Kaiser Permanente, National Institutes of Health, Children's National Medical Center, U.S. Department of Health and Human Services and the U.S. Office of the Assistant Secretary for Preparedness and Response. Examples of completed projects include, Report to Congress on 'Study on the Effects of the No Surprises Act on Healthcare Consolidation, Prices and Access (Fall, 2022); Strategies to Improve Medicare Annual Wellness Visit Completion Sentara Medical Care (Fall, 2022) and Improving Cultural Competence in Healthcare University of Virginia Healthcare (Fall, 2022).

In no more than 150 words (limit to 600 character) explain how your program is committed to sustainability initiatives. *

In 2022, the MHA program leadership, faculty and Advisory Board approved of a new competency on Connections to the Community, through a willingness to be a mentor and coach, serve the community, and add to the profession's professional Body of Knowledge (BoK) as a lifelong learner.

Approved Rationale: Healthcare is a service industry like no other. Everyone within the profession has a responsibility to care for patients. Leaders have a special responsibility to serve the community through their professional and personal actions through a path of life-long learning, teaching, and mentoring


In no more than 150 words (limit to 600 character) explain how your program will utilize the grant to further support sustainability initiatives. *

The COVID pandemic demonstrated an urgent need for leaders to collaborate to remove barriers and save American lives. The next generation of leaders need compassionate partnership every day, and not only during a crisis. GMU will utilize this grant to pilot the 1st national intercollegiate case competition for students from no less than 3 different CAHME accredited programs to unite as one team to analyze cases involving large scale crisis management and optimize sustainable solutions.


Letters of Recommendation

1. Alumni Letter(s) (at least 1, no more than 3): Discuss how your program's commitment to sustainability affected professional development.
2. Student Letter(s): Discuss how your program's commitment to sustainability influenced their attitudes and behaviors.
3. Sustainability Office or Appropriate Administrative Staff Letter (1): Detail the University's commitment to sustainability.


Required Alumni Letter #1: Upload your alumni's letter of recommendation that discusses how your programs commitment to sustainability professional development. *

 Alumni Letter 3 - ...


Optional Alumni Letter #2: Upload your alumni's letter of recommendation that discusses how your programs commitment to sustainability professional development.

 Alumni Letter 2 - ...


Optional Alumni Letter #3: Upload your alumni's letter of recommendation that discusses how your programs commitment to sustainability professional development.

 Alumni Letter 1 - ...


Required Student Letter #1: Upload your student's letter of recommendation that discusses how your programs commitment to sustainability influenced their attitudes and behaviors. *

 Current Student ...


Optional Student Letter #2: Upload your student's letter of recommendation that discusses how your programs commitment to sustainability influenced their attitudes and behaviors. *

 Alumni Letter 2 - ...

Optional Student Letter #3: Upload your student's letter of recommendation that discusses how your programs commitment to sustainability influenced their attitudes and behaviors. *

 Current Student ...

Required: Sustainability Office or Appropriate Administrative Staff Letter (1): Detail the University's commitment to sustainability. *

 GMU Commitme...

Award Recipient Protocol

If you are are recipient of the CAHME/Canon Solutions America for Sustainability in Healthcare Management Education and Practice you agree to the following:

1. You will have at least one representative present at the 2023 CAHME Awards at ACHE Annual Congress on March 19, 2023.
2. You will agree to make a short video about your success to be presented at the Award Ceremony and featured on the CAHME website. Videos are due no later than February 17, 2023.
3. Participate in future white paper research efforts around sustainability education in healthcare management in partnership with Canon Solution America executives.

Use the check boxes below to confirm.

By selecting yes, I agree to have at least one representative at the 2023 CAHME Awards ACHE Annual Congress on March 19, 2023.

- Yes
- No
- Maybe
- Other:

By selecting yes, I agree to make a short video about our programs success to be presented at the Award Ceremony and featured on the CAHME website. Videos are due no later than February 17, 2023.

- Yes
- No
- Maybe
- Other:

By selecting yes, I agree to participate in future white paper research efforts around sustainability education in healthcare management in partnership with Canon Solution America executives.

- Yes
- No
- Maybe
- Other:

Selection Process

Nominations will be reviewed by a blue-ribbon panel. Applicants will be notified in January 2023.

To apply to additional CAHME Awards, visit CAHME's website [here](#).

If you have any questions or concerns, contact Dana Alexander, CAHME Communications and Engagement Manager, at dalexander@cahme.org.

This form was created inside of CAHME .

Google Forms



November 14, 2022

Attention CAHME Awards Committee:

My name is Saad Ahmad and I graduated from the George Mason University (GMU) MHA program, May 2021. During my time in the program, I was privileged to have received thorough education/practical experiences from highly qualified faculty. The combination of theoretical coursework paired with opportunities to apply learning was the best combination for post-graduation success.

I currently work as a solutions consultant for a global biopharma/intellectual property firm Clarivate (<https://clarivate.com/>) and get to apply all my previous degree learnings from GMU MHAs program in my daily work. As a solutions consultant my job involves juggling a variety of biopharma related drug development projects and being able to assess numerous client use cases. Having gone through a rigorous MHA program, I have developed the endurance to handle any type of healthcare related industry work.

GMU MHA's program had numerous faculty which encouraged me to keep wanting to learn which motivated me to parallel pursue my doctoral education. I am fortunate to be pursuing a Doctorate of Health Sciences in Population Health at Thomas Jefferson University. This milestone would have not been possible without the support of GMU MHA faculty.

GMU MHAs program has constantly encouraged me to be innovative in my industry and academic work. I hold the lessons learned from GMU deeply and know that what I do is a testament to my learning at GMU.

Sincerely,
Saad Ahmad, MHA

Discuss the role of the program's education in your professional development around innovation.

My name is Rehan Saeed and I graduated from George Mason University's Master of Health Administration (MHA) in Health System Management program in the Fall semester of 2021.

Amidst the pandemic, we the students and staff alike were faced with several unprecedented challenges. Despite so, none of those challenges hindered the program's efforts in the least towards supporting and encouraging its students to seek innovative ways to persistently enhance their professional growth and development. We took to the relentless advocacy of our leadership and through a multitude of innovative approaches turned a seemingly difficult situation into one of ostensibly endless opportunities.

Through the hosting of several online and in-person networking events, featuring healthcare leaders at the very forefront of their field, from day one the program conveyed its commitment to fostering the professional development of its students and preparing us with the necessary strategic, business, analytic, and decision-making skills needed to successfully navigate and lead innovation in the ever-evolving healthcare industry.

Post-graduation, for the very first time I took on the role of a Healthcare Consultant. Suffice to say, George Mason's MHA program continues to play a significant role in my career path as I put into practice the very foundation provided to me by the program and continue to seek innovative approaches towards further career enhancement. I am who I am today because of the MHA program, and I am forever indebted to the University for its continued support. It comes to me as no surprise that the program continues to achieve success as a leading innovative authority.

Nigel Walker, MHA
Business Operations Manager
8480 Kao Circle
Manassas, VA 20110

November 14, 2022

The ideals of sustainability and social responsibility manifest in several tangible things throughout society. Short-term and long-term impact on one's surroundings are two approaches to measuring sustainability. As such, I would like to share how my experiences during my health administration graduate education at Mason speak to those ideals as well.

In my graduate student experience, my surroundings were my office and my household. Once accepted into Mason's MHA program, a chief short-term concern of mine was if it could fit with work and home life. Graduate school presented a healthy challenge in maintaining these balances, but being a student had a positive impact on both work and home. Professionally, I was presented with opportunities to work on project above my position's usual scope. Personally, I was better able to demonstrate to my school-aged daughter the importance of studying, active participation and desiring to be exceptional in the academic arena. My family was also able to grow, as we found out in my first semester that my wife was pregnant with our second child. I finished with a 3.89 GPA, and my children were able to attend my graduation. Judging the impact of my studies on my ability to live a full personal and professional life, I would wholeheartedly classify my Mason graduate education as sustainable for me and any other working professional considering the impact on home and work.

I am proud to also have been a part of something that has long-term, sustained impact on Mason's MHA program. I was approached to lead Mason's team for NAHSE's Everett V. Fox Case Competition. This was Mason's inaugural team in the NAHSE competition and being chosen was quite special to me, as NAHSE's purpose is to ensure increased diversity in healthcare. As a minority student at Mason, I knew how easy it was to take for granted the diversity we have in the Mason community. I would like to feel that that my willingness to participate, as well as the positive experience I had at the competition and conference, played a role in the NAHSE competition becoming a new tradition for Mason's MHA program. As a black student, I was honored that the faculty chose to highlight my academic achievements. Representation matters, and I am proud that this is now a tradition, part of our program's culture. I am even more honored that those students that come after me have an extra opportunity to showcase the contributions of Mason's minority students while engaging in academic competition, exchanging ideas, and gaining career insight from minority health administrators from around the country and industry.

My choice to pursue and complete my Master of Health Administration degree at George Mason University was one of the best decisions I've made in my life. I am fortunate that my experiences while a student in the program allowed me to positively impact my family, my healthcare organization, and all the minority students who have come after me.

Regards,
Nigel Walker, MHA
Class of 2019



Department of Health Administration and Policy

4400 University Drive, MS 1J3, Fairfax, Virginia 22030
Phone: 703-993-1982; Fax: 703-993-1953

November 14, 2022

Attention CAHME Awards Selection Committee,

My name is Khadeeja Shive, and I am currently in the Master of Health Administration program at George Mason University. In addition to this, I've had the wonderful opportunity to play a role in student involvement within the College of Health and Human Services (CHHS) by serving as this year's president of Rising Healthcare Leaders at Mason (RHLM). I want to highlight one of George Mason's academic events that has been a pioneer in generating more meaningful dialogue around important topics in healthcare: the Spring Symposium.

George Mason's annual Spring Symposium is like no other. For the past four years, RHLM has orchestrated this interdisciplinary event that includes a wide variety of students, faculty members, local community partners, and healthcare executives. The Spring Symposium is much more than just a networking event; it gives some of the brightest minds at George Mason and the northern Virginia area the opportunity to discuss current issues our healthcare system is facing. We welcome all students from different programs within CHHS to attend as a way to highlight the different entities and key players that compromise the healthcare industry's workforce.

The Spring Symposium can be perfectly described using one word: sustainable. It has become a hallmark of the College of Health and Human Services, mainly because it gives attendees the chance to discuss present-day issues in healthcare. Every year, the RHLM team chooses three different panels to cover topics that reflect current trends in healthcare, so there is always something new that is being brought into the spotlight. With this type of versatility, it guarantees that the Spring Symposium will always foster meaningful engagement, thus highlighting its evergreen quality.

Thank you for taking the time to read this letter and consider George Mason for this award! I hope you have gained a bit more insight on the Spring Symposium and George Mason's dedication to student involvement within academic settings.

Sincerely,

Khadeeja Shive

Khadeeja Shive
MHA Candidate at George Mason University
Rising Healthcare Leaders at Mason, President



Department of Health Administration and Policy
4400 University Drive, MS 1J3, Fairfax, Virginia 22030
Phone: 703-993-1982; Fax: 703-993-1953

November 14, 2022

Attention CAHME Awards Selection Committee,

I am writing to recommend George Mason University (GMU) to be considered for the CAHME Award.

I will be graduating this semester with my Master's in Health Administration (MHA) from GMU. Many of my semesters were spent as a full-time student while balancing a full-time position at the University of Virginia (UVA) Health System. I commuted weekly from Charlottesville, VA to GMU for my in-person classes during the evenings.

I was honored to be GMU's Team Captain for the National Association of Health Services Executives (NAHSE) National Case Competition in 2021. I also attended in-person and virtual events held by Rising Healthcare Leaders at Mason (RHLM) for networking opportunities. I was chosen to be a panel moderator at GMU's 2022 RHLM/National Capital Healthcare Executives (NCHE) Spring Symposium, which was the first time a student was selected for this role. I personally recruited some of the panelists to discuss the topic "Understanding Implicit Bias and its Impact on Healthcare Leadership." The event was a success! One of the panelists from UVA Health System's Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion office became my preceptor for my capstone project, which made me the first student accepted by the department. My work created an impact at UVA and the department would like to continue collaborating with GMU MHA graduate students.

The GMU program directors and faculty of health administration empowers and supports their students. I am genuinely grateful for how well my graduate experience at GMU has prepared me for my future career in healthcare administration.



Susan Osmanzada, MHA



Department of Health Administration and Policy

4400 University Drive, MS 1J3, Fairfax, Virginia 22030

Phone: 703-993-1982; Fax: 703-993-1953

November 14, 2022

Dear CAHME Award Selection Committee,

I am writing to share my experience of doing the MHA course at GMU and recommend GMU for the CAHME award. The one thing that makes the MHA program at GMU, one of a kind is that the educators connect with the students at a deeper level. Innovation is defined at GMU by making sure that educators are informed about the actual expectations and experiences of students and give the utmost importance to having an ongoing dialogue with students.

I joined the course in the Fall of 2020 and by the end of the first year, I was pregnant with my firstborn. The innovative and flexible format of the program helped me to continue with the course and balance motherhood at the same time. All the professors at GMU were so acclimatizing to my situation. For example, the timings set for the course are so well thought out. It was a huge advantage to be able to attend classes in the evening as most of the students are working full-time and some are parents like me who can't leave their children in the morning and come for classes.

I was also motivated by my mentor to be a moderator at the spring symposium which was a very successful event for GMU. They made sure I accomplished every goal of mine while doing this program and balancing motherhood at the same time. I am very grateful for the incredible experience I had at GMU.

Sincerely,

Gurkiran Kaur

Student, Master's in Health System Management
George Mason University
Fairfax, Virginia

GMU Commitment to Sustainability: Our office was born in 2007 shortly after Mason signed the American College and University Presidents' Climate Commitment, which committed Mason to **achieve carbon neutrality by 2050**. We use the strengths of George Mason University – innovation, responsiveness, flexibility, and community strength – to provide **leadership in environmental, social, and economic stewardship** on our campuses and throughout the local and global communities of which we are a part.

In 2022 we're still working every day to make Mason more sustainable.

We were the **first institution in the state of Virginia to earn a 'Gold' rating** from the Association for the Advancement of Sustainability in Higher Education (AASHE) in 2014 and we just received our **third 'Gold' rating in a row** in January 2021. Our collaborative efforts are recognized by industry leaders: **9 features in Sierra Club's 'Cool Schools'** ranking and **11 consecutive features in The Princeton Review's 'Guide to Green Colleges'**.