

UNIVERSITY OF MINNESOTA

Twin Cities Campus

*Division of Health Policy and
Management*

School of Public Health

*For U.S. Mail:
Mayo Mail Code 729
420 Delaware Street S.E.
Minneapolis, MN 55455*

*For Courier/Deliver Service:
516 Delaware Street S.E., 15-200 PWB
Minneapolis, MN 55455*

Phone: 612-625-4375

November 8, 2021

Anthony Stanowski, DHA FACHE
President and CEO, CAHME
PO Box 911
Spring House, PA 19477

Dr. Stanowski:

On behalf of the University of Minnesota's Master of Healthcare Administration (MHA) Program, I am pleased to submit this application for the CAHME/Canon Solutions America Award for Sustainability in Healthcare Management Education and Practice.

Founded in 1946, the Minnesota MHA Program is proud to be CAHME-accredited and to participate in the CAHME Mentorship Circle. For the past several years, our program has been making significant investments in our research active faculty and academic staff as well as our curriculum and experiential learning opportunities that drive our students' educational experience. As articulated in the attached nomination and letters of support, the University of Minnesota MHA Program manifests sustainability ideals in numerous ways that contribute to student and community development. These sustainability efforts focus on enhancing cultural competency, increasing community involvement through experiential learning to enhance population health and promote health equity, and acquiring an environmental focus through traditional and project-based learning opportunities. As a program, we recognize the importance of continuing to innovate to ensure that we are developing new generations of healthcare leaders who embrace ideals of social responsibility and sustainability in healthcare management.

We have not previously received this prestigious award. If selected, we would be honored to attend the ACHE Annual Congress on March 27, 2022, to receive the award. Moreover, we would be pleased to create a short video highlighting our efforts. Thank you for considering our application for the CAHME/Canon Solutions America Award for Sustainability in Healthcare Management Education and Practice as well as your leadership in healthcare management education.

Sincerely,



Jean M. Abraham, Ph.D.
Wegmiller Professor and Director
Master of Healthcare Administration Program
School of Public Health, University of Minnesota
Email: abrah042@umn.edu
Phone: (651) 235-5064

Program Overview

Founded in 1946 by James A. Hamilton, the [Minnesota Master of Healthcare Administration \(MHA\) Program](#) is one of the oldest in the nation and a model for other programs across the country. Our program is honored to have been accredited by CAHME since 1968 and a member of CAHME's Mentorship Circle since 2018. We provide our students with training and support to become effective leaders within the healthcare sector, through residential and executive tracks that have produced over 3,000 active and engaged alumni. Through actionable faculty research, an innovative curriculum, and leadership development of students, the Minnesota MHA Program seeks to improve the health of communities to benefit the state, nation, and world. Research informs teaching, and the generation and dissemination of applied research by the program's 12 multidisciplinary faculty further serves to shape policy and practice innovations. Such innovations, in turn, can influence access to healthcare services and overall community health and well-being.

In April 2020, the MHA Program released its five-year strategic plan, including a call for increased intentionality and investment to promote greater diversity, equity, and inclusion (DEI). One month later, the death of Mr. George Floyd sparked an urgent call to action. The Program convened a workgroup, including students, to develop a roadmap outlining five core components to be addressed – accessibility, training and professional development, program climate and culture, curriculum and competency development, and faculty and staff diversity. Throughout 2020-2021, the Program has implemented this plan, which complements actions of the Division of Health Policy and Management's Anti-racism Practice Committee (led by two MHA faculty) and the School of Public Health's new strategic plan for anti-racism.

Program Manifestation of Sustainability Ideals

The Minnesota MHA Program manifests sustainability ideals in numerous ways that contribute to student and community development. These sustainability efforts are focused on enhancing cultural competency, increasing community involvement, acquiring an environmental focus, and increasing access to healthcare services. These efforts are demonstrated in the following ways:

Competency Development and Curriculum

- In August 2021, we revised our [competency framework](#) to more strongly reflect DEI principles and to ensure that all our students are prepared to serve diverse patient populations and lead diverse workforces.

- During the past two years, faculty have been revising coursework to deepen students' learning about health equity and leading diverse workforces. Such revisions are informed by MHA faculty research generated by Dr. Janette Dill, Dr. Carrie Henning-Smith, and Dr. Stuart Grande among others. Below we highlight a few curricular innovations focused on sustainability.
 - *PubH 6525 and 7525 Population Health: A Health System Perspective*. Created in 2017, this two-credit required course focuses on distribution of resources to overcome problems that drive poor health outcomes. The course helps students identify systems of power and privilege that contribute to health disparities and discusses methods for dismantling systemic racism. Students are asked to consider the social and environmental contexts that influence illness as well as organizational implementation challenges.
 - *PubH 6528 Climate Change and Healthcare Organizations*. In Fall 2019, the MHA Program created this elective course for residential students to respond to our growing environmental crisis. This course increases student proficiency in significant climate-related healthcare challenges, with specific focus on the interconnection between climate change and human health, changing disease burden and exacerbation of health inequities, emergency preparedness, environmental sustainability, and organizational action plans. Enrollment has steadily increased with over half of the residential cohort currently electing to enroll.
 - *PubH 6544 Principles of Problem-Solving, PubH 6577 Advanced Problem-Solving and PubH 7566 Healthcare Leadership Executive Capstone*. All three courses connect students to practitioner alumni to apply the Minnesota Way of Problem-Solving. Many projects focus on community sustainability, coordination with healthcare delivery, and organizational efforts to promote environmental sustainability. Recent examples include the design and development of [Envision](#), a housing opportunity for those experiencing homelessness and health concerns and an analysis and recommendations for a large integrated academic health system to facilitate green initiatives. Environmental sustainability was a theme present in over half of the executive capstone projects in the past two years.

Alumni Involvement. The University of Minnesota MHA Program is grateful to have a large and extremely engaged alumni community, and over 150 alumni and industry leaders engaged with the program in 2020-21. The size and breadth of this community provides diverse, community-based perspectives that enhance our student experience and curriculum. For example, Alison Page, CEO of [Western Wisconsin Health](#), provided lectures and hosted student tours at her sustainability-award-winning organization. And two alumni are supporting a simulation-based learning experience to teach first-year students about organizational approaches to addressing concerns about inclusivity (e.g., gender-neutral restroom access in a health system).

Experiential Learning Opportunities. Experiential learning opportunities outside of the classroom are an integral part of student learning. Examples include:

- [Phillips Neighborhood Clinic](#). PNC is a health professional student-run clinic that provides free care to patients, regardless of ability to pay. MHA students have the opportunity to serve in volunteer leadership roles related to registration, quality improvement, operations and finance to improve accessibility and deliver care to patients from marginalized groups within the community.
- [Institute for Healthcare Improvement UMN Student Chapter](#). Dr. Bjorn Berg serves as faculty lead for the student chapter of IHI, which allows students to collaborate in interprofessional teams while partnering with local organizations on quality improvement projects. A recent project focused on enhancing prevention measures and outcomes to advance health equity at the Community-University Health Care Center.
- [Kruse Scholars Program](#). Since 2013, this program offers financial support and educational activities to selected students to develop leadership skills for improving the performance of the communities in which they will live. The Kruse Scholar experience is grounded in the Baldrige Principles of Performance Excellence.
- [Medical Reserve Corps \(MRC\)](#). The University of Minnesota MRC is part of a national initiative to coordinate and mobilize volunteers for public health crises or large-scale disasters. Over the past 1.5 years, students have been involved in various COVID-19 related initiatives, including support for M Health Fairview's command center and vaccine rollout plans.

- Case Competitions. In addition to hosting the CLARION Interprofessional National Case Competition, the program sponsored 14 teams to participate in various MHA and Interprofessional national case competitions in 2020-21.
- Internships and Community Engagement. Many of these opportunities are focused on environmental sustainability in healthcare delivery. For example, [Toya Lopez's](#) internship working at Western Wisconsin Health to further their green strategy and leading the group, [Health Students for a Healthy Climate](#), a university-based student association that focuses on climate change within the health sector.

Strategic Initiatives and Institutional Context

Prior to and since the murder of George Floyd, our program has made significant strides toward addressing and dismantling racism within our MHA program. Below is a brief overview of strategic tactics we have implemented since September 2020:

- Reviewed and revised admissions and scholarship award processes to promote the recruitment and retention of diverse cohorts of students in residential and executive tracks.
- Surveyed faculty on how they incorporate issues of health and healthcare disparities, including the impact of systemic racism. Gaps and opportunities have been identified and the curriculum is being updated to incorporate these topics.
- Initiated a process to improve alignment of the diversity of our students and their exposure to external speakers.
- Delivered professional development around antiracism and white privilege for faculty, staff, and students.
- Supported a student reading group that meets biweekly to discuss political, social, and healthcare-related topics that inform their understanding of structural racism and strategies to mitigate its impact.
- Facilitated the creation of an Alumni Association/Foundation (AA/F) DEI committee to collaborate on strategies for how to better prepare students to serve diverse communities and lead diverse workforces. Alumni informed our competency revision process and continue to engage on identification for how alumni may support BIPoC students and other alumni.



Institutional Context

Our School of Public Health has established a new [Center for Antiracism Research for Health Equity](#) in 2021 that advances racial health equity through research and community-centered action. Having this Center in our School provides students with better opportunities to further understand anti-racism and health equity. Additionally, the University of Minnesota system-wide strategic plan ([MPact 2025](#)) builds on a rich sustainability foundation and calls for greater investments and action in related areas. This includes creating even greater impact via [outreach and community engagement](#), continued [reduction in greenhouse gas emissions](#), fostering a welcoming community that [values belonging, equity, diversity, and dignity in people and ideas](#), and using resources wisely that contributes to [greater affordability of educational programs and opportunities](#).

Conclusion

For the past few years, the Minnesota MHA Program has been making significant investments to innovate our curriculum and expand experiential learning opportunities to promote sustainability ideals, including cultural competency, environmental focus, community involvement, and increased accessibility. Should we have the privilege of receiving this grant award, we would use these funds to develop a publicly-available short-course on climate change and healthcare delivery, including environmental sustainability strategies and climate change adaptation to better meet the needs of vulnerable populations and communities.



October 28, 2021

Commission on Accreditation of Healthcare Management Education

To whom it may concern:

As an alumnus of the University of Minnesota Healthcare Administration program, I am happy to write this letter of support for the program's application for your award for *Sustainability in Healthcare Management Education*.

Clearly, it will be essential for health care leaders to be prepared to lead sustainability efforts in their business sector. From an energy utilization standpoint, hospitals make up about 2% of all commercial structures, and yet they account for 5.5% of the total energy used by the commercial sector. But a commitment to sustainability goes well beyond geothermal fields and solar panels.

The efforts the University of Minnesota Healthcare Administration program has made to raise awareness of the sustainability challenges we face as a global community and equip our future leaders with the knowledge and skills needed to address those challenges are impressive, to say the least.

When my classmates and I graduated from the U of MN MHA program in 1996, we had not learned a great deal about sustainability. We did, however, leave with a deep understanding of the social responsibility we had as leaders who would be in positions to influence how healthcare is delivered in our country. The MHA program has since deepened its commitment to producing leaders who will engage with communities to ensure sustainability in accessibility, cultural sensitivity, and social justice in care delivery.

It was my education at the U of MN MHA program that inspired me to build a health and wellness campus, including a hospital, clinic, fitness center, and eventually, senior housing, completely focused on the broad concepts of sustainability as they apply to the environment, our team, the care and services we provide to our community, and the management of our business.

I am proud of the initiative the program has taken in training future leaders who will be well prepared lead this work into the future.

Best Regards,

Alison H. Page, CEO

UNIVERSITY OF MINNESOTA

Twin Cities Campus

*Division of General Thoracic and Foregut Surgery
Department of Surgery
Medical School*

*Mayo Mail Code 207
420 Delaware Street SE
Minneapolis, MN 55455*

*Office: 612-624-LUNG
Fax: 612-625-9657*

October 31st, 2021

Rafael Andrade, MD, MHA
Surgical Medical Director UMMC Perioperative Services
Professor of Surgery
Chief, Division of Thoracic and Foregut Surgery
University of Minnesota
420 Delaware St. SE, MMC 207
Minneapolis, MN 55455

Dear CAHME Award Selection Committee,

It is my distinct pleasure to write this letter in support of the Minnesota Master of Healthcare Administration (MHA) for the CAHME/Canon Solutions America Award for Sustainability in Healthcare Management Education and Practice. I graduated from the Executive MHA Program at the University of Minnesota in 2017, and I currently work as a physician leader within M Health Fairview.

Over the course of the 2-year Minnesota MHA Program, I learned how to integrate innovation to promote change in healthcare. In my role as a physician leader, I have applied this knowledge to raise providers and employees' awareness of the environmental footprint of healthcare. In the Fall of 2020, the Minnesota MHA Program approached me to mentor resident MHA students on a sustainability capstone project within MHealth. Over the course of 10 weeks, 5 students each spent 15h/week to analyze MHealth's practices on energy conservation, waste management and CO2 greenhouse gas emissions and to objectively assess MHealth's executive-level engagement in sustainability. The result was an all-encompassing report with very specific steps and initiatives to elevate sustainability within MHealth's mission, vision, values, and strategy. The students then presented these findings and recommendations to the executive leadership. MHealth leadership was very receptive to their input and is in the process of gradual implementation of these initiatives. In just 10 weeks, these students achieved more than we had managed to do over the past 15 years!

In 2019 the Minnesota MHA Program developed an elective course for resident students (PubH 6528 Climate Change and Healthcare Organizations) and over 50% of the current cohort enrolled in this course. Through exposures in the curriculum and in practice, Minnesota MHA Program's graduates will take on leadership positions in healthcare and promote change in healthcare's environmental footprint. I fully expect the combination of innovative thinking and climate change awareness in these young leaders to have an exponential and lasting effect over time.

The Minnesota MHA Program has evidently demonstrated its commitment to healthcare sustainability. In my opinion, the Minnesota MHA Program's efforts undoubtedly merit the CAHME/Canon Solutions America Award for Sustainability in Healthcare Management Education and Practice.

Sincerely,



UNIVERSITY OF MINNESOTA

Twin Cities Campus

Program in Healthcare Administration
School of Public Health

D262 Mayo Memorial Building
420 Delaware Street SE
Mayo Mail Code 729
Minneapolis, MN 55455

Office: 612-626-7349
Fax: 612-626-8328
www.sph.umn.edu/programs/mha

October 22, 2021

Anthony Stanowski, DHA FACHE
President & CEO, CAHME
PO Box 911
Spring House, PA 19477

Dear CAHME/Canon Solutions America Award Selection Committee:

I am pleased to write this letter in support of the University of Minnesota's Master of Healthcare Administration application for the CAHME/Canon Solutions America Award for Sustainability in Healthcare Management Education and Practice. As a current second-year student and the Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion Graduate Assistant, I am honored to promote a program that provides an environment that encourages personal and professional growth and the tools to create a more sustainable and inclusive healthcare world.

When entering the program, the country, especially Minneapolis, was in the wake of a cultural uprising post the murder of George Floyd. To my surprise, the UMN MHA program met this problem head-on, addressing it through communications with the student body and having courses explicitly designed around improving disparities within healthcare. Within our Population Health course, we looked closely at the established health system and its inherent power and privileges to some and the downstream effects on the rest of the population. As students, we were tasked to learn about these disadvantaged populations and begin drafting and understanding different intervention options. We were encouraged to look at not just healthcare's direct impact but also the social and environmental factors that play into the health of populations and find ways to dismantle this system of inequalities. This was complemented with various guest speakers in our Twin Cities Learning Lab course, which brought in a variety of healthcare leaders, many of which spoke on their organization's direct efforts to combat these disparities.

Not only has the program rewritten curriculums and added courses to promote these conversations, but it has made a point to create an inclusive and welcoming environment for all. As a student of color, along with others in my cohort, representation and open discussion are incredibly important. Administration, faculty, and staff were open to, and promoted the opportunity for students to air their concerns and improvement thoughts around DE&I efforts. I personally had multiple conversations with our program director. This all led to the creation of an Anti-Racist Book Club, diverse alumni panel discussions and the addition of a Diversity, Equity and Inclusion Graduate assistant position, which I am lucky enough to hold today. Through this position, I work with the MHA administration team and the School of Public Health's Anti-Racist Practicing Committee. This position allows the voice of the students to be heard around these topics, as well as the opportunity to help aid in the efforts of inclusion and curriculum shaping. We currently are involved in

UNIVERSITY OF MINNESOTA

Twin Cities Campus

Program in Healthcare Administration
School of Public Health

D262 Mayo Memorial Building
420 Delaware Street SE
Mayo Mail Code 729
Minneapolis, MN 55455

Office: 612-626-7349

Fax: 612-626-8328

www.sph.umn.edu/programs/mha

onboarding a consulting group to revamp the DE&I training among staff and faculty and, on the MHA side specifically, looking to incorporate increased representation and mentorship through organic alumni and student panels, conversations, and meetings. Every day this position and program allow the voices and experiences of students to drive their improvements.

As we are embarking on our path to become leaders within the field, the Minnesota MHA program ensures that we are well prepared and well versed on all issues in the field. This includes the increasing issue of the healthcare industry's impact on climate change and CO2 emissions. The creation of our Climate Change course ensured this preparation for our students. Within this course, we are charged to look at the origins, causes and impacts of climate change from a human and healthcare leader perspective. This includes, but is not limited to, the downstream effects of climate change on human health and disease burden, and how we can assess this moving forward. We were tasked to take a deep dive at the current impact the healthcare industry has on this issue of climate change, and what current top organizations are doing to address or further propagate this issue. Healthcare has the potential to move significantly towards a more sustainable path, and its our platform to make this change. We must take the learnings from this course and apply them to our future organizations and be the spark needed to become leaders and examples in the realm of sustainability.

As my current focus is my next steps after the Minnesota MHA program, I reflect on what it has brought me in and outside the classroom. This program instilled the passion for growth and breaking the norms to do what is right in healthcare. Professors have given us the tools to create change and equally aided students in their journeys to becoming impactful leaders. I am humbled to be able to recommend the University of Minnesota Master of Healthcare Administration program for this prestigious award. The program has become part of my identity and family, and I cannot wait to see the amazing steps they continue to take in the future.

Sincerely,

Louis Monette
Master of Health Administration Candidate 2022
Diversity, Equity and Inclusion Graduate Assistant

UNIVERSITY OF MINNESOTA

Twin Cities Campus

Program in Healthcare Administration
School of Public Health

D262 Mayo Memorial Building
420 Delaware Street SE
Mayo Mail Code 729
Minneapolis, MN 55455

Office: 612-626-7349
Fax: 612-626-8328
www.sph.umn.edu/programs/mha

November 3, 2021

Anthony Stanowski, DHA FACHE
President & CEO, CAHME
PO Box 911
Spring House, PA 19477

Dear CAHME / Canon Solutions America Award for Sustainability in Healthcare Management Education and Practice Selection Committee Members

I am a second-year Master in Healthcare Administration (“MHA”) student at the University of Minnesota (“U of M”) School of Public Health and I am excited to write this letter in support of the U of M MHA application for the 2021 CAHME / Canon Solutions America Award. The U of M MHA program provides course content and experiential learning opportunities that equip future healthcare leaders with the population health knowledge and problem-solving skills to address upstream social determinants of health to sustainably improve community and individual health and well-being.

We learn about environmental and systemic linkages to disparities in health outcomes within and across populations through the course *Introduction to Population Health: A System Perspective* in our first semester at the U of M. In this course, our professor, Dr. Grande, gave us the opportunity to apply the principals and frameworks we learned in lecture to a semester long project. A fellow MHA student and I chose to explore disproportionately high COVID-19 contraction and mortality rates in the U.S. incarcerated population. We learned about the systemic factors contributing to mass incarceration and the often-hazardous environmental factors within jails and prisons. We created a three-phase intervention using the Transitional Care Coordination framework to prevent COVID-19 contraction, coordinate COVID-19 care with local healthcare organizations, and provide support for post-COVID recovery. Dr. Grande and the healthcare leaders that spoke in our class taught us how to approach improving complex and interconnected health equity issues through getting proximate to the population we are serving and coordinating efforts across community partners.

Second semester in the MHA program, we applied our population health knowledge and problem-solving acumen to a consulting project within a healthcare organization. My group consulted for Prime Therapeutics, a pharmacy benefit manager. We designed health programing that aims to address social determinants of health for the Minnesota Medicaid population Prime Therapeutics serves. Through this project, I gained familiarity with levers payers, providers, and community organizations have to address social and environmental determinants. My group recommended and began to forge integration of social determinants of health efforts between Prime Therapeutics and their Blue Cross Blue Shield of Minnesota in their health literacy programing. Prime Therapeutics has continued to iterate the integration and health literacy programing for which my group built the foundation. The U of M MHA program empowers students to start creating more equitable and sustainable systems as students.

Energized by the knowledge and skillset I was gaining in the U of M MHA program; I pursued a residency at Hazelden Betty Ford Foundation (“HBFF”). During my summer residency at the HBFF, I was able to experience the impact of supporting individuals and families affected by addiction and mental health issues. I worked on a

UNIVERSITY OF MINNESOTA

Twin Cities Campus

Program in Healthcare Administration
School of Public Health

D262 Mayo Memorial Building
420 Delaware Street SE
Mayo Mail Code 729
Minneapolis, MN 55455

Office: 612-626-7349

Fax: 612-626-8328

www.sph.umn.edu/programs/mha

project exploring strategies to share the HBFF behavioral health model and best practices with health systems, government entities, and other community partners. I found it rewarding to work on expanding the reach of behavioral-health-informed services, especially to underserved communities. The U of M professors and alumni helped me identify behavioral health as an area I am passionate about making a difference. Throughout my career I will seek to create sustainable systems that recognize the mental, environmental, and physical needs of individuals and communities.

Now, first-semester of my second year, I am in the course *Climate Change and Healthcare Delivery Organizations: Considerations for Healthcare Leaders*. In the class we learned some of the foundational science of climate change, the role environmental hazards play in health and health disparities, and the great opportunity healthcare organizations have to reduce emissions as large players in the U.S. economy, accounting for nearly 20 percent of U.S. GDP. We created projects examining the environmental sustainability policies, practices, and cultures within a healthcare organization. I worked with M Health, a national leader in environmental sustainability (recognized in Practice Greenhealth's Environmental Excellence Awards for five consecutive years from 2011-2015)[1]. At M Health Fairview, I work with providers to identify implementation barriers between policy and practice and formulate recommendations to address barriers and garner greater buy-in for existing environmental initiatives across the organization. Professor Armbruster's lectures, guest speakers from leaders across the industry, and field project convinced me that environmental health is one of our most pressing issues in healthcare. Due to this course, I have resolved to incorporate environmental sustainability as a key consideration in all decisions I make as a healthcare leader and community member.

The challenges facing our healthcare systems are complex. Although addressing these issues is difficult, the U of M prepares future healthcare leaders to analyze developing healthcare situations, weigh the short and long-term impacts of potential solutions, and make deliberate and community-focused decisions. I believe U of M's comprehensive population health programming, and passionate faculty and alumni are an excellent match for the 2021 CAHME / Canon Solutions America Award's focus on a holistic approach to sustainability in healthcare.

Thank you so much for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,

Becca Ruff

University of Minnesota Master of Healthcare Administration Candidate 2022

[1] *Awards Recognize Sustainability Efforts*. Fairview Health . (n.d.). Retrieved from <https://www.fairview.org/blog/Awards-Recognize-Sustainability-Efforts>.

October, 28 2021

Anthony Stanowski, DHA, FACHE
President and CEO, CAHME
PO Box 911
Spring House, PA 19477

Dear CAHME/Canon Solutions America Award Selection Committee:

I am writing this letter to express my support of the University of Minnesota School of Public Health, Master of Healthcare Administration's application for the CAHME/Canon Solutions America Award for Sustainability in Healthcare Management Education and Practice.

As a recent graduate of the Executive Master of Healthcare Administration program, former MHA Alumni Board student representative, and MHA Alumni Board DEI committee member, I am pleased to support our program. In 2020, our MHA program leadership developed a plan of action to address student demands to address the racial inequities in partnership with the Office of Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion in the School of Public Health. I had the opportunity to work alongside MHA program leadership to refine a strategic roadmap to achieve racial equity within the program. This work, though nascent, is indicative of the MHA program leadership's commitment to developing cultural humility and fostering accessibility for Black, Indigenous, and other students of color.

After graduating from the MHA program at the start of 2021, I accepted a role within the School of Public Health as the deputy director of the new Center for Antiracism Research for Health Equity at the U of M School of Public Health. The center, established in 2021, is based on the vision of Associate Professor Rachel Hardeman, a leading scholar of antiracism, and was founded with a generous gift from Blue Cross and Blue Shield of Minnesota. Located within a top 10 school of public health, CARHE is one of the only antiracist research centers in the country.

I'm proud to serve as deputy director within CARHE and to be an alum of the U of M School of Public Health where we believe that everyone has the right to live a healthy life. We recognize that systemic racism and oppression has led to health inequities, and we commit to making diversity, equity, inclusion, and justice central to our mission. This comprehensive approach is intended to influence every aspect of our school including education, hiring, fundraising, research, and community engagement.

Sincerely,



Andre Le Blanc, MHA
Deputy Director, Center for Antiracism Research for Health Equity
University of Minnesota School of Public Health

UNIVERSITY OF MINNESOTA

Twin Cities Campus

Facilities Management

*300 Donhowe Building
319 15th Avenue SE
Minneapolis, MN 55455*

November 1, 2021

Anthony Stanowski, DHA FACHE
President & CEO, CAHME
PO Box 911
Spring House, PA 19477

Dear CAHME/Canon Solutions America Award Selection Committee:

The University's commitment to advancing sustainability through its research, teaching, outreach, and operations goes back decades and was enshrined in the University Board of Regents policy, *Sustainability and Energy Efficiency*, in 2004. The policy calls for collective action by the entire University community to incorporate sustainability into the fabric of the institution, and to be a leader on and model of sustainability. In the intervening years, the University has worked earnestly to put this policy vision into action through a variety of ways, including:

- Establishing the University's Institute on the Environment in 2006 to work on Earth's greatest environmental challenges.
- Becoming a signatory to the American College and University Presidents' Climate Commitment in 2008. Now known as the Second Nature Carbon Commitment, this pact is a voluntary pledge by higher education institutions to reduce greenhouse gas emissions to net-zero as soon as possible and to expand climate change related curriculum, research, and outreach.
- Incorporating sustainability requirements into all of our new construction and major renovations for campus facilities, using the State of Minnesota's Sustainable Building Guidelines (comparable to LEED).
- Recycling and composting more than 40% of campus waste.
- Purchasing over 61 Million kilowatt hours of renewable electricity each year, which is enough to power ~5,700 average US homes.
- Reducing greenhouse gas emissions 51% on the University's Twin Cities campus and 47% across the University system between 2008 and 2020.

As a result of these and other actions, our campuses have been repeatedly recognized in the Princeton Review *Guide to Green Colleges* and Sierra Club *Cool Schools* publications, and have received Silver and Gold Ratings in the Sustainability Tracking, Assessment, and Rating System (STARS) multiple times.

In 2020, the University pledged to build on these efforts and successes, setting a goal to "Build a Fully Sustainable Future" in its new Systemwide Strategic Plan. To implement this goal, we will be setting new, ambitious targets for carbon reduction, adopting the UN Sustainable Development Goals as a

framework for guiding efforts and assessing progress, and seeking to increase our positive impact with communities external to the University.

The University's health education programs have been champions for sustainability, and they are key to past successes and our new sustainability goals. In recognition of these important contributions and their work on this topic, we wholeheartedly support the Master of Healthcare Administration's application for the CAHME/Canon Solutions America Award for Sustainability in Healthcare Management Education and Practice.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Shane Stennes', written in a cursive style.

Shane Stennes
Director of Sustainability
University of Minnesota