

**ADVANCING QUALITY.  
CELEBRATING  
LEADERSHIP.  
ACHIEVING MORE,  
TOGETHER.**

CAHME Awards Ceremony  
March 1, 2026  
Houston, TX

**CAHME**<sup>®</sup>

## Congratulations from Al Faber, CAHME Interim President & CEO



**On behalf of the CAHME Board of Directors, we offer our sincere congratulations to the recipients of the 2026 CAHME Awards.** It is an honor to recognize your achievements over the past year defined by our shared theme, *Advancing Quality. Celebrating Leadership. Achieving More, Together.*

This year's award recipients represent excellence across programs, leadership, and emerging professionals. Through innovation, service, mentorship, policy, advocacy, and sustainability, you are advancing quality in healthcare management education while strengthening the systems and communities you serve. The CAHME Awards highlight not only individual and programmatic achievement, but also the collective impact made possible through collaboration among educators, students, partners, and sponsors who share a commitment to continuous improvement.

Congratulations on this well-deserved recognition! We look forward to the continued impact you will have on healthcare management education and the future of healthcare leadership.

Sincerely,

A stylized, handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Al Faber'.

**Al Faber**

Interim Chief Executive Officer  
CAHME



# 2026 Ceremony Program

**Arrival and Networking**

**Opening Remarks**

**Lunch**

**Canon Award for Excellence in Sustainability in Healthcare Management  
Education and Practice**

**George and Regi Herzlinger Platinum Award for Innovation in Education**

**Baldrige Foundation Award for Leadership Excellence**

**Dr. Dolores Clement Fellow of the Year Award**

**Joint Commission Fellowship in Sustainable Healthcare Leadership**

**Olin Oedekoven Most Improved Student Scholarship**

**Gail Matejic Peace Scholarship for Visionary Healthcare Leaders**

**Robert S. Bonney Scholarship for Veterans of the U.S. Armed Services**

**Quint Studer Scholarship for Excellence in Healthcare Mentorship**

**Fawn Lopez Scholarship for Health Advocacy Communication Excellence**

**Judy Baar Topinka Foundation Scholarship for Health Policy**

**Tim Campbell Scholarship for Selfless Service to Others and the Community**

**Closing Remarks**

## About the 2026 CAHME Awards

*The CAHME Awards are made possible through the generosity of our sponsors and donors. We are grateful for their continued support.*

### Program-Level Awards

**Canon Award for Excellence in Sustainability in Healthcare Management Education and Practice** recognizes accredited programs that integrate sustainability into healthcare management education, including environmental, social, and economic dimensions. Guided by Canon's philosophy of Kyosei, living and working together for the common good, this award honors programs that embed sustainability into curriculum, research, and operations and prepare future healthcare leaders to build more resilient and responsible healthcare systems.

**George and Regi Herzlinger Platinum Award for Innovation in Education** is funded by Dr. George Herzlinger and Professor Regi Herzlinger, whose innovative medical devices have saved hundreds of thousands of lives and whose work has educated generations of healthcare leaders on evaluating and adopting innovation. This award continues that tradition by encouraging academia to ensure future healthcare leaders develop the skills necessary to create, assess, and implement innovative solutions.

Introduced in 2026, the Platinum Award is open exclusively to prior recipients of the CAHME/George and Regi Herzlinger Innovation Education Award from 2022 through 2025, providing an opportunity to expand and further develop their original innovation projects.

### Leadership Awards

**Dr. Dolores Clement Fellow of the Year Award** recognizes a Fellow who is nominated by fellow site visitors and programs visited and who demonstrates a sustained history of service supporting program success and advancing the quality of healthcare management education.

Dr. Dolores Clement, a former CAHME Board member and Master Fellow Emeritus, was deeply passionate about her role as a site visitor and the impact Fellows have on strengthening programs. She created and personally funded this award to recognize Fellows who exemplify service, mentorship, and dedication to healthcare management education. The award continues to honor her enduring legacy and commitment to the field.

**Baldrige Foundation Award for Leadership Excellence** recognizes a program director who has made significant strides in improving the quality of their program and advancing healthcare management education.

The Baldrige Foundation promotes leadership excellence by encouraging strategies that align mission, vision, and values to drive innovation and achieve sustainable results. Through education, resources, and recognition, the Foundation supports leaders in fostering cultures of continuous improvement and resilience so organizations can adapt and thrive.

## Student Scholarships and Internship

**Joint Commission Fellowship in Sustainable Healthcare Leadership** recognizes a graduating student from a CAHME-accredited or certified program who has demonstrated a strong commitment to sustainability, quality, and continuous improvement in healthcare leadership.

CAHME and Joint Commission are united by a shared belief that sustainable healthcare leadership is essential to advancing quality, safety, and healthier communities worldwide. Together, they award a competitive, one-year fellowship that provides hands-on experience supporting enterprise-wide sustainability initiatives, cross-organizational collaboration, and exposure to accreditation and certification processes across Joint Commission and CAHME.

**Olin Oedekoven Most Improved Student Scholarship** recognizes a student from a CAHME-accredited or certified program who has demonstrated exceptional growth and improvement during graduate studies in healthcare management. This scholarship is made possible through CAHME's long-standing partnership with Peregrine Global Services and the Peregrine Global Foundation, whose support advances CAHME's mission to strengthen healthcare management education.

Dr. Olin O. Oedekoven founded Peregrine Global Services in 2002 following distinguished military, academic, and government service. Under his leadership, the organization grew from a small leadership development enterprise into a global education technology company. A lifelong learner and decorated veteran, Dr. Oedekoven believed in values-driven innovation and integrity, principles that continue to guide this scholarship and its focus on personal and professional growth.

**Gail Matejic Peace Scholarship for Visionary Healthcare Leaders** recognizes a graduate student from a CAHME-accredited or certified program who demonstrates the vision, determination, and creativity to lead meaningful change in healthcare.

Made possible through the support of healthcare executive and entrepreneur Gail Matejic Peace, this scholarship supports students who identify opportunities to improve healthcare, act decisively, and translate innovative ideas into measurable improvements in healthcare systems, outcomes, or access while balancing the demands of graduate study with meaningful impact.

**Robert S. Bonney Scholarship for Veterans of the U.S. Armed Services** recognizes an honorably discharged veteran from a CAHME-accredited or certified program who has demonstrated exceptional leadership, dedication, and service throughout their military career.

This scholarship honors individuals who are now committed to applying their experience, values, and leadership to make a lasting impact in healthcare, strengthening organizations, communities, and the future of healthcare management.

**Fawn Lopez Scholarship for Health Advocacy Communication Excellence** recognizes a student in a CAHME-accredited or certified program who demonstrates excellence in health advocacy, communication, and values-driven leadership.

This scholarship honors Fawn Lopez, Publisher Emeritus of *Modern Healthcare*, whose vision and leadership have shaped the field of healthcare media and elevated critical healthcare issues to national attention. It supports students who demonstrate resilience, integrity, and a commitment to advancing healthcare through effective communication and leadership.

**Quint Studer Scholarship for Excellence in Healthcare Mentorship** recognizes a graduate student in a CAHME-accredited or certified program who demonstrates excellence in education, mentoring, and support of others within the healthcare field.

Inspired by the values and leadership philosophy of Quint Studer, this scholarship honors students who are dedicated to fostering growth, development, and learning among their peers or the broader community, reflecting the powerful role of mentorship in shaping the future of healthcare leadership.

**Judy Baar Topinka Foundation Scholarship for Health Policy** recognizes a graduate student from a CAHME-accredited or certified program who demonstrates a strong commitment to health policy, public service, and improving healthcare quality and access through ethical, values-driven leadership.

This scholarship honors the legacy of Judy Baar Topinka, whose distinguished career in journalism and public service included serving as a member of the Illinois House of Representatives, Illinois Senate, first woman Illinois State Treasurer (unprecedented three terms) and Illinois State Comptroller. A tireless advocate for the health and welfare of Illinois residents, Judy championed healthcare policy, access, and quality throughout her career. Successful applicants reflect her passion for public service, integrity, persistence, and dedication to advancing the public good.

**Tim Campbell Scholarship for Selfless Service to Others and the Community** recognizes a graduate student from a CAHME-accredited or certified program who demonstrates a deep commitment to service, volunteerism, and supporting others within their community and the healthcare field.

This scholarship honors Tim Campbell, a CAHME board member who exemplified selfless service and a lifelong dedication to helping others. Tim believed that true success is measured through hard work, meaningful relationships, and a genuine commitment to enabling others to reach their full potential, values reflected in the students this scholarship supports.

To learn more about CAHME's awards, scholarships, and internship opportunities, visit:  
[cahme.org/awards](http://cahme.org/awards)



# Canon Award for Excellence in Sustainability in Healthcare Management Education and Practice

*Made possible through the generous support of Canon.*

## University of South Carolina Master of Health Administration

The Master of Health Administration Program at the University of South Carolina's Arnold School of Public Health is recognized for its comprehensive integration of sustainability, equity, and experiential learning within healthcare management education. The program incorporates Environmental, Social, and Governance (ESG) frameworks and simulation-based decision-making to prepare students to balance environmental responsibility with operational and ethical priorities. Its immersive graduate assistantship and residency model, combined with strong alumni engagement, equips future healthcare leaders to drive sustainable and impactful health system transformation.

Award funding will support the expansion of Environmental, Social, and Governance (ESG) integration across the MHA curriculum, including scaling the Carbon Emissions Learning Lab (CELL) simulation to additional courses. Resources will also be used to develop interprofessional sustainability case competitions, workshops, and student-led projects in partnership with local health systems focused on improving environmental performance. Additional support will strengthen faculty training and curricular design, creating a replicable, practice-based ESG learning model that advances sustainability education across the Arnold School of Public Health and the broader USC health system.

“The Canon Award for Excellence in Sustainability in Healthcare Management Education and Practice affirms the University of South Carolina MHA program’s commitment to preparing healthcare leaders who can effectively manage complex health systems while advancing environmental, social, and population health responsibilities. This recognition reflects the collective contributions of our faculty, students, alumni, and partners in integrating sustainability across education, experiential learning, and leadership development. Support from Canon will further strengthen our ability to advance innovative, practice-informed, and globally engaged approaches to preparing the next generation of healthcare leaders.”

— Nabil Natafqi, PhD, MPH, CPH  
Assistant Professor  
MHA Program Interim Director

The Canon logo is displayed in a bold, red, sans-serif font.

# George and Regi Herzlinger Innovation Education Platinum Award

*Made possible through the generosity of George and Regina Herzlinger.*

## Trinity University Master of Science in Health Care Administration

The Healthcare Administration Program at Trinity University is recognized for its intentional integration of innovation, experiential learning, and human-centered design across the curriculum. The program's Tiger Tank competition and Healthcare PRISm Pitch Competition provide students with structured opportunities to identify real-world healthcare challenges and develop scalable, practical solutions through creative problem-solving and interdisciplinary collaboration. Through its commitment to open dissemination, faculty engagement, and national collaboration, Trinity has created a replicable innovation model that strengthens healthcare management education across the CAHME community.

Award funding will support the expansion of the Healthcare PRISm Pitch Competition through enhanced coaching for student teams, the development of faculty-facing innovation teaching resources, and the introduction of post-competition support for market-ready concepts. Funding will also be used to grow open-access learning materials and outcome tracking efforts, strengthening dissemination and extending the program's impact across healthcare management education nationally.

**"Innovation is not only about invention; it's about how to make invention happen."**

— Prof. Regi Herzlinger

**"Receiving the George and Regi Herzlinger Platinum Award for Innovation in Education affirms what inspires us most—our students. It is a testament to the creativity, collaboration, and commitment of students and faculty from CAHME-accredited programs from across the country. We are proud to have partnered with such a diverse and talented community of students who continue to inspire one another through shared innovation journeys. We are grateful for Regi Herzlinger's generous support, which allows us to expand access to coaching, mentorship, and hands-on innovation experiences for students everywhere. This award strengthens our commitment to develop the next generation of healthcare leaders who are prepared to lead change with purpose, creativity, and impact."**

— Ed Schumacher, PhD  
Professor, Health Care Administration

We acknowledge and thank the 2026 applicant programs for their significant work in innovation, including Florida International University (Healthcare MBA), Boise State University in collaboration with HFMA (MPHSM), and George Mason University (MHA in Health Systems Management).

**George and Regi  
Herzlinger  
Charitable Fund**

## Dr. Dolores Clement Fellow of the Year Award

*Established by Dr. Dolores Clement to recognize service and mentorship and made possible through her generous gift to CAHME.*



### **Carla Stebbins, PhD, MHA Program Director, MHA Texas A&M University**

Carla Stebbins is recognized for her longstanding service to CAHME and her meaningful contributions as a Fellow, including her commitment to mentorship, program quality, and the advancement of healthcare management education.

“In the early 2000’s I was faced with the challenge of leading an existing program through accreditation. It was a very intimidating task as a new program director. I was preparing to ‘jump through hoops,’ but the overall experience had a radical impact on the program and me professionally. I began to see how the accreditation process grounded the faculty efforts to ensure that we were committed to not only improve day by day but to ensure that the program was truly meeting the industries’ demands, remain competitive, and support our graduates’ abilities to lead through change.

Serving as a CAHME fellow has been a career highlight for me. I value every site visit, team meeting, and late-night reading and studying a program. I’ve learned so much and hope that my involvement has supported these programs to continue the work to advance healthcare leadership! I knew of Dr. Clement but not well. The encounters I had left a lasting impression of her passion and dedication. I imagine that she, as well as my fellow colleagues, once had a similar experience as I. I am deeply honored to accept this recognition. Thank you CAHME and the Board of Directors for the opportunity to serve this profession!”



## Baldrige Foundation Award for Leadership Excellence

*Made possible through the generosity of the Baldrige Foundation.*



### **Neel Pathak, DSc, FACHE Program Director, Executive Healthcare MBA Assistant Professor of Practice Creighton University**

Neel Pathak is recognized for his leadership as a program director and for demonstrating measurable improvement and innovation within the Executive Healthcare MBA program, reflecting a strong commitment to quality, continuous improvement, and excellence in healthcare management education.

“Receiving the Baldrige Foundation Award for Leadership Excellence is deeply meaningful because it reflects the work being advanced through Creighton University’s Executive Healthcare MBA program to deploy systems thinking, evidence-based leadership, and values in health-care settings. My ongoing commitment to the CAHME and Baldrige mission through leadership education makes this recognition an affirmation that disciplined program design can consistently translate strategy into sustained performance for organizations.”



BALDRIGE - America's Best Investment

## Joint Commission Fellowship in Sustainable Healthcare Leadership

*Made possible through the generosity of Joint Commission.*



### Sydney Schultz, MS-HSM Rush University

Sydney Schultz is a graduate student in the Master of Health Systems Management program at Rush University, pursuing a CAHME-accredited degree in healthcare administration. She brings hands-on experience in healthcare operations, sustainability, and systems improvement through her work with Rush University Medical Center's Office of Environmental Sustainability. She supports initiatives spanning clinical operations, supply chain, and environmental performance.

Her background also includes leadership in interdisciplinary project teams, applied financial and operational analysis, and national case competition experience. Sydney selected a CAHME-accredited program to gain rigorous, systems-level training grounded in quality, equity, and organizational performance. She is passionate about strengthening healthcare systems through data-driven decision making and innovative operational strategies that improve patient outcomes, workforce well-being, and long-term system resilience.

"I am deeply honored to receive the Joint Commission Fellowship in Sustainable Healthcare Leadership, and I am grateful to CAHME and Joint Commission for this meaningful support. This fellowship represents an important milestone in my professional journey and underscores the value of experiential learning in preparing future healthcare leaders.

This support enables me to fully engage in applied work that advances sustainability, quality, and operational excellence, even after graduation. I would like to sincerely thank my faculty and mentors at Rush University for their guidance and encouragement, as well as my colleagues for their collaboration and support. I am also deeply grateful to my family and friends for their unwavering belief in me. This opportunity reinforces my commitment to strengthening resilient, equitable healthcare systems."

**"I envision creating lasting impact by strengthening healthcare systems through data-informed decision-making and collaborative leadership. My goal is to advance sustainable practices that support high-quality care and resilient organizations."**



## Olin Oedekoven Scholarship for Most Improved Student

*Made possible through the generosity of Peregrine Global Foundation.*



### Brandon DuQuesnay, MSHA Fordham University

Brandon DuQuesnay is currently pursuing a Master of Science in Healthcare Administration at Fordham University. He works as a Patient Coordinator at New York-Presbyterian Hospital, where he manages grievances, advocates for patients facing complex care issues, coordinates care across clinical departments, and collaborates with leadership to enhance the patient experience.

Brandon's healthcare experience spans both frontline patient-facing roles and administrative operations, giving him a comprehensive understanding of how care is delivered and experienced. He chose a CAHME-accredited program for its emphasis on value-based leadership, accountability, and real-world impact, aligning with his goal of advancing patient-centered care and making quality healthcare accessible to all.

"I am truly honored to accept the Olin Oedekoven Scholarship for Most Improved Student. This recognition holds significant meaning for me, as it acknowledges not only my academic progress but also my steadfast commitment to becoming a thoughtful, equity-driven healthcare leader. Receiving this award serves as a meaningful affirmation of my academic progress and professional growth.

I would like to express my heartfelt gratitude to the CAHME community, the Peregrine Global Foundation, and Fordham University for this honor. I am especially thankful to my professors, colleagues, friends, and family, who have challenged, encouraged, and supported me throughout this journey. This scholarship strengthens my resolve to promote quality, patient-centered care and contribute to building a more equitable and inclusive healthcare system."

"I am committed to advancing compassionate, equitable, and high-quality care through leadership and patient advocacy. My work focuses on translating organizational values into meaningful, measurable impact while strengthening systems that better support patients and the professionals who serve them."



## Gail Matejic Peace Scholarship for Visionary Healthcare Leaders

*Made possible through the generous support of Gail M. Peace.*



### Mark McShane, MD, MHQS University of Pennsylvania

Dr. Mark McShane is a graduate student in the Center for Healthcare Improvement & Patient Safety at the University of Pennsylvania, pursuing a CAHME-accredited degree in Healthcare Quality & Safety while completing a fellowship training program in pediatric hospital medicine. He completed his general pediatrics training and board certification at Texas Children's Hospital in Houston, Texas.

Mark has earned Lean Six Sigma Yellow Belt certification and Sustainable Healthcare certification and has served on Sustainability Councils at two major children's hospitals. He chose the MHQS program at Penn to develop expertise, leadership strategies, and practical skills in quality improvement to enhance the environmental sustainability of healthcare delivery and operations.

"I am deeply honored to receive the 2026 Gail Matejic Peace Scholarship for Visionary Healthcare Leaders. This award is not merely a personal achievement, but a signal that our healthcare community values the work being done to improve the environmental sustainability of our health systems and care delivery.

This support will allow me to complete my training in the MHQS program while also finishing my clinical fellowship at the Children's Hospital of Philadelphia. I would like to thank my professors at Penn, my mentors at CHOP, and my collaborators in healthcare sustainability across the country. Most importantly, I want to thank my family, friends, and my wife, Madeleine, whose support has been unwavering throughout this journey."

"I am working to transform healthcare institutions into leaders and champions of sustainability, because our patients need and deserve healthy environments. I believe this can be achieved at the level of care delivery through structured quality improvement initiatives and diverse, multidisciplinary teams that generate cost savings and advance the value of care while maintaining quality, equity, and safety."



## Robert S. Bonney Scholarship for Veterans of the U.S. Armed Services

*Made possible through the generous support of Robert S. Bonney.*



### Lisa Hershiser, MHA University of Cincinnati

Lisa Hershiser is an Executive Master of Health Administration student at the University of Cincinnati, pursuing a CAHME-accredited degree in healthcare leadership. With more than 16 years of experience spanning healthcare operations, government programs, and health technology, she has dedicated her career to improving systems that serve patients and communities. A U.S. Navy veteran, Lisa brings a deep sense of service, discipline, and purpose to her work advancing Medicare, Medicaid, and veterans' healthcare initiatives.

She chose a CAHME-accredited program to strengthen her leadership capabilities and deepen her understanding of complex healthcare systems. Her passion lies in harnessing innovation, technology, and policy to create more equitable, efficient, and patient-centered healthcare—especially for veterans and underserved populations.

“I am truly honored to receive the Robert S. Bonney Scholarship for Veterans of the U.S. Armed Services. This recognition is profoundly meaningful to me, as it reflects a lifelong commitment to service—from my years in the U.S. Navy to my work leading innovation and transformation in healthcare. This scholarship provides vital support as I complete my Executive MHA and continue advancing efforts to modernize care delivery for veterans and underserved communities.

I am deeply grateful to my professors and mentors at the University of Cincinnati, to my colleagues for their collaboration, and to my family for their unwavering support. Thank you to CAHME and Bob Bonney for investing in my journey and in the future of healthcare leadership.”

**“I aspire to drive lasting impact in healthcare by blending service-driven leadership with innovation and technology to reimagine how care is delivered. Through patient-centered design and data-driven transformation, my goal is to build more equitable, resilient systems that honor those who served and improve outcomes for all.”**

## Fawn Lopez Scholarship for Health Advocacy Communication Excellence

*Made possible through generous donations from the CAHME Board and friends of Fawn Lopez.*



### Alexander Gramajo, MHA University of Southern California

Alexander Gramajo is a progressive degree graduate student at the University of Southern California, pursuing a CAHME-accredited Master of Healthcare Administration. His background is rooted in public health and community health advocacy, shaped by experiences in both Los Angeles and his hometown of Milwaukee. Through academic training and hands-on roles in healthcare operations and performance improvement, Alexander has witnessed systemic gaps in access, quality, and equity—and the power of advocacy in driving meaningful change.

He chose the MHA program to deepen his understanding of healthcare systems while developing the leadership skills necessary to improve care delivery. A CAHME-accredited degree aligns with his lifelong commitment to strengthening healthcare organizations that serve marginalized and underserved communities.

“I am deeply honored to receive the 2026 Fawn Lopez Scholarship for Health Advocacy Communication Excellence. This recognition is incredibly meaningful to me, as it affirms my commitment to advocacy, equity, and clear communication within healthcare systems. Receiving this scholarship provides critical financial support as I complete my Master of Healthcare Administration and continue pursuing opportunities in performance improvement and strategic planning that center underserved communities.

I am profoundly grateful to my professors and mentors at the University of Southern California for their guidance, trust, and encouragement, as well as to my colleagues who have challenged me to think critically and lead with purpose. I also thank my family for their unwavering support and belief in my goals. This award strengthens my resolve to advocate for more equitable, patient-centered healthcare.”

**“My goal is to drive momentum in healthcare by advocating for the very reason this industry exists—our patients. By leading with tenacity, compassion, and a commitment to quality improvement, I aim to elevate patient experience while ensuring care delivery remains equitable, efficient, and centered on patient needs.”**

## Quint Studer Scholarship for Excellence in Healthcare Mentorship

*Made possible through the generous support of Quint Studer and Rishy Studer.*



### **Priya Sandhu, MSHA** **California State University, Long Beach**

Priya Sandhu is a graduate student pursuing a CAHME-accredited Master of Science in Healthcare Administration at California State University, Long Beach. Her dedication to healthcare stems from witnessing her family face barriers in accessing care. With a four-year background in healthcare, Priya has completed multiple internships, including experiences with Kaiser Permanente and Mayo Clinic, to broaden her understanding of healthcare organizations.

Currently, she works as a New Patient Coordinator at a specialty clinic, collaborating closely with administrative and clinical teams to support efficient clinic workflows. She selected this program to build a strong skill set and become a transformative leader in healthcare, with a focus on health equity and improved accessibility. Following graduation, Priya will complete an administrative fellowship at Henry Mayo Newhall Hospital.

“I am greatly honored to receive the Quint Studer Scholarship for Excellence in Healthcare Mentorship. This award affirms my commitment to mentoring the next generation of healthcare leaders. As a first-generation student, the guidance of my mentors has been invaluable, which is why I am passionate about giving back through mentorship.

This scholarship will help me expand my knowledge of data analytics and support efforts to improve mental health in my community. I sincerely thank my professors at CSU Long Beach for their continued support—especially Dr. Yang Lu, Dr. Erylana, and Professor Knego—who have encouraged me to step outside my comfort zone. I am also deeply grateful to my family and friends, who have been my constant source of support and encouragement. This achievement reflects both my hard work and the many people who have helped me along the way.”

“My goal is to become a transformative leader by developing system-level strategies that advance health equity and streamline care pathways. I plan to continue mentoring students at CSU Long Beach and through ACHE to help them achieve their healthcare goals. I am committed to driving meaningful change to make the patient journey as seamless and supportive as possible.”

# Quint and Rishy **Studer**

## Judy Baar Topinka Foundation Scholarship for Health Policy

*Made possible by the generous support of Joe Topinka and the Judy Baar Topinka Foundation.*



### James Gonzales, MHA University of the Incarnate Word

James Gonzales is a graduate student in the Master of Health Administration program at the University of the Incarnate Word in San Antonio, Texas, pursuing a CAHME-accredited degree in Healthcare Administration. With more than 15 years of leadership experience as an Air Force Explosive Ordnance Disposal Technician, he brings a strong foundation in operational decision-making, ethical leadership, and performing under pressure.

His healthcare experience includes a summer internship at Children's Health-Dallas, where he served as a Program Coordinator in the Behavioral Health Clinic and led initiatives that improved patient access and reduced barriers to care. In addition to his professional work, James has dedicated significant time to community volunteer efforts focused on public health and veteran support. He chose a CAHME-accredited program to translate a career of service into healthcare leadership, with a focus on promoting equitable policies and increasing access to high-quality care for underserved and veteran populations.

"I am deeply honored to receive the Judy Baar Topinka Foundation Scholarship for Health Policy, as it affirms my dedication to public service and promoting equitable access to healthcare. This recognition supports my ongoing education in healthcare administration and allows me to expand my efforts to improve behavioral health access and enhance care for underserved and veteran communities.

I sincerely thank my professors and mentors at the University of the Incarnate Word for their guidance, along with my family, friends, and colleagues whose encouragement has sustained me throughout this journey. This award strengthens my responsibility to lead with integrity and to turn service into meaningful, community-driven change."

**"Rooted in a career in public service, my goal is to enhance access by developing inclusive policies and strengthening behavioral health systems. Through principled leadership, I strive to create lasting change that extends beyond individual programs or roles."**



## Tim Campbell Scholarship for Selfless Service to Others and the Community

*Made possible through generous donations from the CAHME Board and friends of Tim Campbell.*



### **Suzette Araiza Gibson, eMHA University of Central Florida**

Suzette Gibson is a graduate student in the Executive Master of Health Administration track at the University of Central Florida, pursuing a CAHME-accredited degree in Healthcare Administration. She has served in the United States Coast Guard since 2018, where she has performed law enforcement operations, drug enforcement, and medical readiness activities across the United States.

In 2020, Suzette began serving as a Health Services Technician, providing care to active-duty Coast Guardsmen. She later pursued advanced military training and became an independent healthcare provider in 2024. During her off duty time, Suzette has remained deeply engaged in community volunteer efforts, driven by a strong commitment to service. Her work includes supporting military families, individuals with intellectual disabilities, and mentoring children through school outreach programs.

She chose to pursue a CAHME-accredited degree to deepen her understanding of civilian healthcare and military medicine, with the goal of integrating best practices across both systems to consistently deliver high-quality care to all patients.

“I am deeply honored to receive the Tim Campbell Scholarship for Selfless Service to Others and the Community. Receiving this scholarship and such a prestigious award is incredibly uplifting and celebrates altruism within the healthcare community. This award provides vital support as I continue my educational path and work toward becoming a leader in military healthcare administration.

I sincerely thank the academic support coordinator, Mrs. Kristin Dellasalla, and program director, Dr. Dawn Oetjen, at the University of Central Florida for nominating me for this award, as well as my professors for their guidance and mentorship. I am also deeply grateful to my family—my father and stepmother, my husband William, and my son Aaron—for their unconditional love and support throughout my military career and graduate school journey.”

“My goal is to create a lasting impact by focusing my training and mentoring on patient experience and patient advocacy. Aspiring to commission as a military medical officer will allow me to influence and lead more compassionate healthcare practices across clinical and administrative teams, ultimately improving the experiences and outcomes of the patients we serve.”

## Thank you to the American College of Healthcare Executives



American College of  
Healthcare Executives  
*for leaders who care*<sup>®</sup>

We extend our sincere gratitude to ACHE, one of CAHME's three longest-standing corporate partners and our valued venue sponsor. ACHE's unwavering support is instrumental in supporting CAHME's mission to advance the quality of healthcare management education. Thank you, ACHE, for all that you do for the profession, and for your support for CAHME.

## Thank you to Modern Healthcare

# Modern Healthcare

Thank you to Modern Healthcare, CAHME's exclusive media partner, for amplifying the impact of our Awards & Scholarships Program and helping us celebrate excellence in healthcare management education.

We acknowledge and thank our Premier Table Guests, including University of South Carolina, MHA and Texas A&M University, MHA



## With Gratitude to Our Blue Ribbon Panelists

This year's program saw a record number of applicants, underscoring the strength and diversity of this year's pool. We extend our sincere thanks to the Blue Ribbon Panelists for their time, expertise, and thoughtful deliberation. Their careful review and dedication to the selection process were essential in identifying this year's recipients, and we are grateful for their commitment to recognizing excellence and leadership.

Brad Beauvais, PhD, Associate Professor, Texas State University

Robert Bonney, JD, Vice Chair of the Board of Presbyterian Manors of MidAmerica

Grady Clouse, MBA, Healthcare Strategy & Business Development Leader

Catlin Clemmons, MHA, Program Manager, Center for Advanced Practice, UChicago Medicine, 2024 Award Recipient

Dan Collard, Co-Founder, Healthcare Plus Solutions Group

Ben Creo, Lecturer, Harvard Business School

Halee Fischer-Wright, MD, President and Chief Executive Officer, MGMA

Andy Garman, PsyD, Professor, Department of Health Systems Management, RUSH University

Debra Gillmeister, MBA, Executive Healthcare Business Development, Strategic Accounts-Vertical Markets, Canon

Arianna Goss, MHA, Administrative Fellow, St. Louis Children's Hospital; 2025 Award Recipient

Allyson G. Hall, PhD, Director, Graduate Programs in Healthcare Quality & Safety, The University of Alabama at Birmingham

Dr. Jeffrey Helton, PhD, CMA, CFE, FHFMA, Teaching Professor and Academic Director of Health Programs, University of Colorado Denver

Regina Herzlinger, DBA, Nancy R. McPherson Professor of Business Administration, Harvard Business School

Richard Hirth, PhD, Axelrod Collegiate Professor, University of Michigan

Ronald Holder, MHA, FACMPE, FACHE, CAE, CAHME Chair, Chief Administrative Officer, Hendrick Clinic and Hendrick Anesthesia Network at Hendrick Health

Merry Jiang, Associate, Provider & Research, Advisory Board; 2025 Inaugural Award Recipient

Elizabeth Kavarianian, MSHCA Candidate, California State University - Long Beach; 2025 Award Recipient

Forest S. Kim, PhD, FACHE, Executive Director, Baylor University

Dr. Kimberly Lee, PhD, MSHP, PT, FACHE, Associate Professor of Practice Texas State University

James Lineberger, PhD, MHA, FACMPE, FACHE, Executive Director, Anesthesia Associates Boise, P.A.

Fawn Lopez, Publisher Emeritus, Modern Healthcare

Laura Madarász, Clinical Research Manager, Inova Fairfax Medical Campus; 2025 Award Recipient

Katherine Meese, PhD, Chief Executive Officer, HuMargin Group

Stephanie Mercado, Chief Executive Officer and Executive Director, NAHQ

Stephen Mosher, Interim Assistant Director, Central Virginia VA Health Care System, 2023 Award Recipient

Brittany Morrison, MHA, Associate, Booz Allen Hamilton; 2022 Award Recipient

Mickey Morrison, Business Analyst, Siemens Energy

Paul Murphy, Sales Vice President, Major Accounts & Vertical Markets, ESS Sales, Canon

David B. Nash, MD, Founding Dean Emeritus, Jefferson College of Population Health

Todd Nelson, MBA, Director, Partner Relationships and Chief Partnership Executive, HFMA

Bankole Olatosi, PhD, MPH, MS, FACHE, Associate Professor, University of South Carolina

Toluwase Olufadewa, MHA Candidate, One Health Team Lead and Research Associate, Slum and Rural Health Initiative Network, 2025 Inaugural Award Recipient

Jennifer Pitts, Vice President of Programs, Products, and Certification, NAHQ

Robert Porr, Lt. Colonel (ret.), MSC, USAF

Jen Porter, EdD, MBA, SVP, Field Engagement, American Hospital Association

Keshaav Krishnaa Pothapur, MHA, Administrative Fellow, Boston Medical Center 2025 Award Recipient

Terrelle Ramsey, MHA, Executive Resident, HCA Houston Healthcare, 2024 Award Recipient

Dr. Eric Richardson, PhD, MBA, MPH, Chair, Department of Healthcare Leadership & Management, Medical University of South Carolina

Sean Riley, MHA Candidate, Central Michigan University, 2025 Award Recipient

David Rubenstein, FACHE, Major General, U.S. Army Medical Department, Retired

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Kevin Zacharyasz, MEn, Global Director, Healthcare Sustainability, Joint Commission

## Thank you to CAHME Bootcamp presenters



**Dr. Eric Richardson** is Chair and Professor of Healthcare Leadership and Management at the Medical University of South Carolina. He brings more than 20 years of experience designing, teaching, and leading curricula across traditional, hybrid, and fully online healthcare management programs, with a sustained focus on applied, competency-based, and workforce-aligned education.

Dr. Richardson serves on the CAHME Accreditation Council and is a member of CAHME's AI Taskforce, where he contributes to national efforts guiding the responsible integration of artificial intelligence into healthcare management education and accreditation. His work emphasizes accreditation-aligned curriculum design, assurance of learning, and AI-resilient assessment strategies.

A CAHME Certified Fellow, Dr. Richardson is the 2023 Academy of Management Health Care Management Division Excellence in Teaching Award recipient, a former chair of ASHHRA's national Education and Learning Committee, and a member of the Journal of Health Administration Education Editorial Board.



**Lynn T. Downs, PhD** is an Associate Tenured Professor in the H-E-B School of Business and Administration at the University of the Incarnate Word. A retired United States Navy Medical Service Corps Officer, she served 28 years in senior healthcare administrative leadership roles across clinical operations, education, and human resources. Dr. Downs is a Fellow of the American College of Healthcare Executives and a past Regent for Central and South Texas. She currently serves as Chair of the CAHME Accreditation Council and a CAHME Master Fellow. Dr. Downs also holds leadership and editorial roles with AUPHA and the Journal of Health Administration Education. *Journal of Health Administration Education*.



**Dr. Carla Stebbins, PhD** is Program Director of Health Care Administration at Texas Woman's University, where she teaches marketing, management and leadership, innovation, and capstone experiences, including study abroad. Prior to joining TWU in 2023, she spent more than 30 years in faculty and administrative roles, including serving as program director for two MHA programs that achieved CAHME accreditation. A member of the Accreditation Council and CAHME Fellow since 2017, Dr. Stebbins also provides training and consulting to healthcare and education organizations and serves in leadership roles with ACHE-SETC and AUPHA.



**Dr. Maureen Connelly Jones** serves as **CAHME's Chief Accreditation Officer (CAO)** and brings more than 30 years of experience across healthcare practice, higher education, academic leadership, and accreditation. A CAHME Master Fellow, she has held national leadership roles within the accreditation community, including Chair of the CAHME Standards Council and member of the Accreditation Council and Candidacy Committee, helping shape accreditation standards, policies, and processes. Dr. Jones has led graduate healthcare management programs at major research universities and is recognized for building strong assessment and continuous improvement systems that advance program quality and student outcomes. Her career began in clinical practice, grounding her work in real-world

healthcare operations. She holds a PhD in Workforce Education and Development and nursing degrees from The Pennsylvania State University.



**Tecia Mentzer** serves as **Manager, Program Development at CAHME**. Tecia Mentzer serves as the Manager, Program Development at CAHME, where she oversees and manages all program accreditation-related activities up until they achieve candidacy status. She serves as CAHME's primary point of contact for institutions seeking accreditation, guiding them through the eligibility, application, and pre-candidacy phases. She brings experience across public, private, and government sectors, with a background in operational compliance, internal auditing, and financial analysis. Prior to CAHME, Tecia held roles with Toll Brothers, Inc. and Lockheed Martin, where she conducted in-depth audits and managed multimillion-dollar program accounts supporting complex operational and logistics functions. She holds a Bachelor of Business Administration in Marketing from the University of North Texas.



**Stacey Rowand** serves as **Chief Operating Officer at CAHME**, bringing a strong background in technology, project management, and operations. Prior to joining CAHME, she held multiple roles in the tech industry, most recently as a Project Manager at Honeywell, where she led cross-functional teams delivering body-worn, voice-enabled wireless technology for nursing home staff. Her career also includes experience as a Software Test Engineer, Software Lead Engineer, and Software Test Manager. Stacey holds a Bachelor of Science in Mathematics with a minor in Computer Science from Lebanon Valley College.



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