

Message from your ACHE Regent
Spring 2023

As a Los Angeles area native, I was excited about moving to Vermont last year and experiencing my first New England fall and winter. I am happy to report that I not only survived my first winter here, but thoroughly enjoyed it! In addition to my excitement about the weather, I was also looking forward to experiencing healthcare in a rural environment. Practicing as a healthcare executive in large metropolitan areas such as Los Angeles and Denver presented plenty of challenges related to staffing and access to care, but how was that going to differ in a state with comparatively so few healthcare organizations? Much like the weather, I have found there are healthcare challenges unique to living in this part of the country, but I have also found the incredible camaraderie amongst healthcare professionals in our state makes it an absolutely amazing place to be a healthcare leader.

Over the past nine months I have experienced an exceptional level of teamwork and collaboration between our healthcare entities. Whether it's VAHHS coordinating workplace violence prevention meetings between the various hospitals and state lawmakers, or chief nursing officers from all over the state joining together to help a state university obtain a new graduate-level program accreditation, the interaction between Vermont healthcare leaders is nothing short of amazing. Yes, healthcare management in a rural environment is challenging, but the level of engagement across our various organizations makes the hard work feel a little less challenging.

The collaborative environment I've experienced since moving to Vermont last summer reminds me of the relationships I've been fortunate to make through ACHE. I've been an ACHE member for over a decade, and a Fellow since 2015. Being an active member in local chapters has always allowed me the opportunity to develop meaningful relationships with other healthcare professionals, and I truly believe it has enhanced my practice as an executive. When COVID hit, many of the in-person ACHE activities I used to enjoy came to a halt. Not being actively involved in ACHE programs left a professional void for me, so I am incredibly thankful for the opportunity to serve as your interim Regent and to get back to the in-person activities so many of us love.

I had the privilege of attending the pre-Congress Regent Think Tank and the 89th ACHE Convocation a couple days before the 2023 Congress on Healthcare Leadership in Chicago last month. It was such an honor to represent Vermont and partake in discussions around grooming future healthcare leaders, the value of obtaining the FACHE credential, and how organizations need to invest in professional development programs. The weeklong activities throughout Congress were stimulating and inspiring. Several sessions offered throughout the week explored the importance of diversity and inclusion, workforce development, quality and safety, as well as operational efficiencies to drive optimal clinical and financial outcomes. It was exactly what I needed to reengage myself with the professional organization I have enjoyed for so long.

I hope you all get an opportunity to feel refreshed this spring season and continue to pursue excellence as healthcare leaders. Please encourage your students, peers and team members to consider joining ACHE. If pursuing Fellow status is an option for you, I strongly encourage you to go for it! I also encourage you to participate in our local Chapter, ACHE of Northern New England.

I'd also like to thank the ACHE Vermont members who have welcomed me over the past nine months. It's been an absolute pleasure to get to know so many of you both in-person

and via Zoom calls. I look forward to continuing those relationships and making new ones moving forward.

Have a fantastic spring season.

All my best,



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