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ACHE Congress 2006 Update

Headlines

Join us for the KU Student ACHE and HP&M Alumni Social at ACHE Congress. See Page 3 of this newsletter for more information.

Check out the Alumni Spotlight on Doug Smith, '98. See Page 4 for the article.

Visit the new KUMC ACHE student chapter website at www.jayhawkhealth.com.

First Year of the Student Track

For the first time, ACHE Congress will be offering a track of programs specifically for the educational needs of students. This track of programs focuses specifically on special needs of individuals new to health care administration field. The student track allows for nine hours of educational in-services, student networking reception, resume review, career counseling, and many organized networking opportunities.

The cost of the ACHE Congress for regular non-student members is \$975. ACHE has discounted the same course offerings to student associate to \$275. Obviously this is a large sum of money for students, however the cost of Congress is well worth opportunity for educational enrichment and the potential for networking.

KU Alumni Networking

In collaboration with the HP&M department, ACHE will be sponsoring a Congress social event for current students and alumni of the program. In the past our students have used such events as an opportunity to network with successful KU MHA graduates. This can be beneficial for both real world working knowledge and also job placement. Our alumni enjoy these events at Congress because it allows them the opportunity to look for future employees and to catch up with former classmates and instructors. Last years social event was considered by many students as the highlight of their academic year.

Lodging

Lodging at Congress can become expensive for an individual student. Sharing hotel accommodations with other students decreases the cost greatly. Many KU ACHE members are looking for individuals to share hotel rooms with in Chicago during Congress. To learn of lodging opportunities at Congress please contact Danyelle McCauley or Chris Lipp. We are currently working on ways to further decrease the cost of Congress attendance through fund raising and alumni donations. Suggestions or support for the fund-raising is appreciated.

Information

Please take the time to investigate more regarding ACHE Congress at: <http://www.ache.org/cong2006/CongressIntroPage.cfm>

University of Kansas Medical Center
ACHE Student Chapter

Contact Information

Email: ache@kumc.edu
www.jayhawkhealth.com

Perspectives from an Alumnus

By Heather Lipp, MHSA 2005

Why Should I attend Congress?

Congress offers you an opportunity to further your professional development, learn from experts and your peers, and network with colleagues. You can expect to take part in keynote events, group discussions, networking receptions, and career planning sessions. And you will leave with a wealth of new information and strategies for addressing your biggest challenges.

Congress is an ideal forum in which to explore continuing education while networking with fellow leaders. Whether you are looking for best practices in implementing systems to enhance patient safety, striving for better ways to serve your community, or struggling to find ways to increase revenue, Congress has a session for you.

At Congress, you will:

- * Come face-to-face with the leaders and the issues. Congress is designed to maximize your interaction with the best and the brightest healthcare leaders. From panel discussions to small group learning sessions, you'll have invaluable access to the perspectives of top leaders on the most important issues.
- * Think outside organizational constraints. Day-to-day demands can prevent healthcare executives from approaching issues in new or creative ways. Congress presents an opportunity to learn how other organizations are tackling the same challenges you are facing while providing the resources you need to customize innovations for use in your organization.
- * Distinguish yourself. From leadership skills assessments to sessions that explain how to advance within ACHE, Congress shows you how to set yourself apart from others. You'll return to your organization armed with the information and the strategies you need to reach the next milestone on your career path.
- * Maximize your time and travel expenses. In just a few days away from the office, you'll have access to educational seminars, general sessions, one-on-one career development programs, and networking events. There's no better value for your educational dollar. Whether you've attended Congress previously or will be a first-time participant, you'll experience the same high level of excitement and value that you've come to expect from all of ACHE's programs and events. Why should you attend Congress? It's the best opportunity you'll have all year to distinguish, renew, and ready yourself for the challenges to come.

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ACHE Congress 2006 Update—Additional Information

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What does a past KU MHA graduate say about Congress?

"ACHE's Congress is a wonderful opportunity to network with current students and future colleagues. Congress provides the opportunity for career development and counseling. Congress affords students the opportunity to learn from the best and current healthcare executives."

Heather Lipp, Class of 2005
Children's Hospital and Health System of Wisconsin

KU Student ACHE and HP&M Alumni Social at ACHE Congress 2006

What: All alumni attending the Congress are invited to join current students and faculty of the HP&M program for the annual Alumni social at ACHE Congress. Enjoy legendary Gino's East pizza pie in a relaxed environment while catching up with old friends and making new ones.

The KU Student ACHE is pleased to sponsor this event and will have plenty of pizza and beer for the first thirty people at Gino's East. Beer starts at 6:30 p.m. and pizza will be served at 7:00 p.m. We hope you can make to this event and look forward to seeing you there.

Where: Gino's East, 633 N. Wells St. (Ontario & Wells)

When: Tuesday, March 28th, 6: 30 p.m.—8:30 p.m.

Who: Alumni of the University of Kansas HP&M program

Cost: \$0!!!

Donations and contributions are welcome.

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Alumni Spotlight

**John Douglas Smith, MBA, MHA
President and CEO, B.E. Smith**

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B.E. Smith specializes in recruitment and interim management services of health care professionals, including Chief Executive Officers, Vice Presidents, Directors and Managers. In 2004, B.E. Smith directed over 400 successful management searches and is on target to complete 500 management searches in 2005. B.E. Smith is expanding in higher executive level searches, and interim management is the fastest growing service line. The interim executives bring an average of twenty years of experience and choose transition management as a lifestyle.

Doug Smith has served in senior leadership since 1996. B.E. Smith grew from 2 consultants to over 132 on payroll under his leadership as CEO. Doug completed an MBA in 1984 and completed his MHA with The University of Kansas Medical Center in 1998. Prior to his MHA, Doug found himself working with hospitals, yet he had no previous hospital experience. He decided to take a class to hone his skills in the health care industry. He enjoyed the class so much he took another and eventually found himself immersed in the program and graduated four years later in 1998.

He enjoyed the environment of knowing what was going on in health care industry on a national level. It is very common to become encapsulated within your organization and not know what all the trends are in health care. People get so busy that they need to make a conscious effort to get out of that environment and look at the industry as a whole to stay current in the health care industry. The MHA degree taught him what was going on in hospitals and finds that now that he is out of the program he has to make more of an effort to stay current on what is going on in the industry holistically.

Doug stays linked with the industry by staying well read, being connected to associations like ACHE, and attending national conventions. He attends five or ten conventions annually and his organization does a number of breakout presentations at conventions, as well as displaying booths. Doug really emphasized the importance of staying connected with the industry on a national level. He encourages health care professionals to stay on top of what's going on in the industry.

Doug was kind enough to offer advice to our current students. Doug recommends starting early in building a network especially for the traditional students. Without experience you have to have someone give you an opportunity and then you need to prove yourself. He cannot emphasize enough that students should not wait until 3 or 4 months before graduation to start making connections, "You have waited too long." He recommends starting at least a year in advance making contacts, by means of letter dropping, making phone calls, and going to association meetings, and other similar methods. It's a tough road otherwise. Time to start looking is early not late. Mock interviews are a particularly good idea, as well as making students aware of alumni that they may contact. A lot of professional development is available through our alumni network. It would be a real strength of our program to have a strong alumni relationship and network. Doug, personally, never says no to a student whom wants to talk or meet with him. Getting a career started is very challenging, and he wants to help catalyze them as much as possible.