

An Independent Chapter of



American College of
Healthcare Executives
for leaders who care®

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President's Message:

Advancing ACHE of Georgia and Our Members

Dear ACHE of Georgia Members,

I am honored and excited to serve as President of the ACHE of Georgia Chapter in 2026. I look forward to building on our strong momentum and continuing to deliver meaningful value to our members across the state.

First, I would like to thank our outgoing president, Lindsey Petrini, FACHE, for her outstanding leadership and service to our board and chapter. Under her leadership in 2025, the chapter continued to expand and enhance our offerings. We were recognized nationally with ACHE awards for Education and Networking Performance, Member Satisfaction, Membership Growth, and Sustained Performance — an achievement earned by only four chapters last year. We look forward to receiving these awards at the Tuesday, March 3 luncheon during ACHE Congress in Houston.



**Sanford Duke, MD, MBA,
FACHE**

Our ACHE of Georgia membership continues to grow, and as of this month, we have surpassed 1,900 members for the first time. We are also expanding our program outreach, with Local Program Councils forming in Augusta and Athens. Augusta will host a [Lunch and Learn](#) on March 19 offering 1.5 hours of In-Person Education credit. Additionally, we are planning quarterly networking events held simultaneously in Atlanta, Athens, and Augusta under the banner **ACHE of Georgia Undercover**.

I am also pleased to share that our [Summit on the Coast](#) will return to Savannah on April 29–30, offering 5.5 credit hours along with a networking reception.

Beginning February 24, we are launching [Mentor Office Hours](#), a free monthly Zoom session held on the fourth Tuesday of each month. This program will connect members with Mentorship Program participants to discuss career development and professional growth. On February 26, we will also host a [Black History Month webinar](#) in partnership with NAHLE Atlanta, Georgia NAHLE, Georgia HIMSS, and Georgia HFMA.



Calling All Fellows: Be Featured in Our New Chapter Spotlight & C-Suite Leader Showcase

The ACHE of Georgia Growth & Satisfaction Committee is excited to announce the rollout of two new initiatives designed to recognize the outstanding contributions of our Fellows and strengthen engagement across our chapter.

ACHE Fellow Spotlight will highlight the journeys, achievements, and impact of Fellows across diverse roles and settings—bringing visibility to emerging leaders while promoting professional growth and the value of the FACHE credential.

FACHE C-Suite Leader Showcase will feature senior executives who exemplify leadership excellence, mentorship, and commitment to advancing healthcare through ACHE engagement.

We invite all Fellows of the ACHE of Georgia Chapter to participate by submitting your profile or nominating a col-

league. These features will be shared through our newsletter, LinkedIn, and chapter communications to celebrate leadership across our community.

Submission Links:

- [ACHE Fellow Spotlight](#)
- [FACHE C-Suite Leader Showcase](#)

Join us in showcasing the talent, leadership, and impact of our Fellows. We look forward to celebrating you!



Philip Atoyebi, MD, MBA, MPH, FACHE, Board Member at Large and Membership Growth and Satisfaction Committee Chair

Just Announced – Board of Governors Exam Support Scholarship

Application Deadline Is March 15

Apply now for ACHE of Georgia's new [FACHE/Board of Governors Exam Support Scholarship](#). The scholarship provides financial assistance to ACHE of Georgia members who are planning to sit for the Board of Governors exam this year. Up to 10 scholarships, each in the amount of \$750, will be awarded. Applications are due March 15.



Chet Bhasin, FACHE, Scholarship Subcommittee Chair

Scholarship funds may be used to offset FACHE Board of Governors (BOG) application fees, exam fees, and/or exam preparation courses. An ACHE BOG exam fee waiver is typically available from March 1 to June 30, pending approval of the application.

Application Timeline:

- Application Deadline: March 15, 2026
- Notification of Award: April 5, 2026
- Exam Completion Deadline: August 15, 2026

Eligibility Requirements:

Applicants must:

1. Meet all [ACHE eligibility requirements](#) to sit for the FACHE BOG exam.
2. Apply regardless of current stage in the FACHE process; however, preference will be given to applicants who have completed more ACHE prerequisites.
3. Sit for and successfully pass the FACHE BOG exam by August 15, 2026.

Be sure to [apply](#) by March 15.

Upcoming Events

Upcoming Events:

- **February 24, 12:00 PM to 1:00 PM** — “Mentor Office Hours,” a new opportunity to meet with our Mentorship Program Participants. No registration fee.
- **February 26, 12:00 PM to 1:00 PM** — “Strategies for Bridging the Healthcare Trust Gap in Black and Brown Communities,” Black History Month webinar. 2 hour of Qualifying Education credit.
- **March 2-4, 2026** — ACHE Congress on Healthcare Leadership, Houston, TX, “Purpose in Motion.”
- **March 12, 5:00 PM to 8:00 PM** — “Career Compass: Navigating Your Leadership Journey,” an evening filled with networking and professional tips from industry experts. 1 hour of ACHE Qualifying Education Credit.
- **March 19, 11:00 AM-1:00 PM** — ACHE of Georgia Augusta LPC lunch and learn, “Navigating Key Legislative Issues Impacting Healthcare.” 1.5 hours of ACHE In-Person Education credit.
- **March 23-26** – ACHE of Georgia Week, daily webinars at noon to learn about chapter activities and how to get involved. More details to be announced.
- **April 16, 11:30 AM to 2:00 PM** — ACHE of Georgia lunch and learn at Maggiano’s in Buckhead, “Leading Through Mergers and Acquisitions.”
- **April 18, 10:00 AM to 6:00 PM** -- Georgia Healthcare Field Day 2025, a dynamic day of movement, mission, and meaningful connection. Sponsorship opportunities available.
- **April 29-30** — ACHE of Georgia Summit on the Coast: “Shaping What’s Next – Leading Change with Courage and Clarity.” All events—education and networking—at our headquarters hotel in downtown Savannah. 5.5 total credit hours.

Register for Events at
www.acheofgeorgia.org/events

Attention Students and Early Careerists:

FEBRUARY 24th
12:00-1:00 pm

Join
ACHE of GA Mentor

Sepi Browning,
HIMSS Senior Director

Need advice on an upcoming interview? Want input on your career path? Just want to spend an hour with an executive?

Join us every 4th Tuesday of the month for **MENTOR OFFICE HOURS!**
 Q&A with an ACHE of GA Mentor!

NO Fee and NO registration required!
 Just add it to your calendar, scan the QR code, and join the Zoom link!

Learn more about our Mentorship Program by visiting: www.acheofgeorgia.org

Joint Black History Month Webinar

"Strategies for Bridging the Healthcare Trust Gap in Black and Brown Communities"

February 26, Noon to 1:00 PM ET Via Zoom

This joint community partner webinar convenes diverse voices to explore actionable strategies for rebuilding trust, designing inclusive solutions, and creating systemic change that honors the dignity and agency of Black and Brown communities. Join us on February 26!

Moderator:



Christopher Kunney, FHIMSS, eFACHDM, MSMOT, Managing Partner, IOTEC Consulting

Panelists:



Lupe Berretta, MHA, LSSBB, Quality Improvement & Health Equity Advisor, Grady Health System



John Matthew Douglas, Health Equity & Social Determinants of Health Steward | Clinical Safety Executive, ECRI



Darra M. Edwards, PharmD, MSOL-HCM, BCCCP, BCPS, ACE, Director of Pharmacy Services, Southern Regional Medical Center



Lauren R. Powell, MPA, PhD, Head, Health Equity & Clinical Innovation, Drug Development, Biogen



HIMSS GEORGIA CHAPTER

hfma georgia chapter



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PURPOSE IN MOTION

ACHE 2026 CONGRESS on Healthcare Leadership March 2-4 | Houston

Register at <https://congress.ache.org>

4.5 Hours of ACHE In-Person Education Credit
1 Hour of Qualifying Education Credit



Registration Now Open!

SUMMIT ON THE COAST

April 29-30 in Downtown Savannah

“Shaping What’s Next - Leading Change with Courage and Clarity”

Join us for ACHE of Georgia’s 2026 Summit on the Coast in beautiful Savannah!

Our Summit on the Coast theme is “Shaping What’s Next – Leading Change with Courage and Clarity.” This theme ties together solid decision-making, successful models to drive change, effective implementation, gaining buy-in, and courageous leadership. It emphasizes the power of clarity and successful operations in executing strategy and creating strong teams.

This year, all of our events will be held at our headquarters hotel, the [Fairfield Inn & Suites Savannah Downtown/Historic District](#).

Summit on the Coast offers **4.5 ACHE In-Person Education hours and 1 hour of Qualifying Education credit**. Don’t miss this opportunity to learn, connect, and grow with top healthcare leaders in the Hostess City of the South!

Sponsorship Opportunities

There are several opportunities to sponsor events at Summit on the Coast. [Click here](#) for full details.



Connect and learn with healthcare leaders at ACHE of Georgia’s Summit on the Coast in Savannah. The program offers 5.5 hours of education credit.

Event Details:

April 29, 2026, 3:00 PM to 7:00 PM ET
April 30, 2026, 8:00 AM to 2:00 PM

[More Information](#)

[Register Now](#)

ACHE of Georgia Upcoming Events

President's Letter (continued from page 1)

In addition to our in-person and virtual education and networking opportunities, we will continue offering our virtual Toastmasters club and chapter podcast.

I strongly encourage members who are eligible for ACHE Fellowship to consider taking the Board of Governors Exam this year. Our chapter provides a variety of resources to support your preparation, including our [virtual prep class](#) available on our website. New this year, we are offering a [FACHE/Board of Governors Exam Support Scholarship](#), which provides financial assistance to members planning to sit for the exam. Applications are due March 15 — I encourage you to apply.

If you have not already done so, I invite you to follow us on [LinkedIn](#) to stay connected. I look forward to seeing many of you at our upcoming networking events, education programs, or at ACHE Congress, March 1–4.

Warm regards,

Sanford Duke, MD, MBA, FACHE
President, ACHE of Georgia

ACHE of Georgia's Podcast

ACHE of Georgia's [Healthcare Leadership Podcast](#) features interviews with today's leading healthcare executives. Each episode brings you fresh insight into the world of leadership from a healthcare perspective.

Recent podcasts are with Dr. Sharon Horesh Bergquist, "The Stress Paradox;" Mark Stevens, FACHE, "The Sterling Management Framework;" and Dione Geiger, MA, "The Sterling Standard: Leadership that Drives Result."

[Click here](#) to listen to these and other available podcasts.

Attention Emerging Leaders, Recent Graduates, and Students!

Join Us for Our Career Development Networking Event!

March 12, 5:00 PM to 8:00 PM
Maggiano's Buckhead
2 Hours of ACHE Qualifying Education Credit

Career Compass: Navigating Your Leadership Journey

Join us on March 12 from 5:00 p.m. to 8:00 p.m. at Maggiano's in Buckhead for "Career Compass: Navigating Your Leadership Journey," an evening filled with networking and career tips from industry experts.

You will be placed in small groups, and a panel of healthcare executives will host "speed rounds" of professional tips to help you map your path to executive excellence. Topics include Earning Your FACHE, Career Move Strategies, Navigating Setbacks, Inviting Meaningful Feedback, and Mentorship Tips.

Register Now at www.acheofgeorgia.org or Scan QR Code

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Available Now!



New Podcast:

"The Sterling Standard: Leadership that Drives Results"

Featuring
Dione Geiger, MA



Dione Geiger, MA, President
of The Sterling Council

In this insightful episode, host Dr. Yanick Hicks sits down with Dione Geiger, MA, President of The Sterling Council, to explore how effective leadership drives organizational excellence. Dione breaks down the Council's mission to champion quality leadership and performance improvement across healthcare organizations through proven frameworks like the Malcolm Baldrige Criteria for Performance Excellence.

Hosted by Dr. Yanick Hicks, the podcast is available at no charge on ACHE's website at acheofgeorgia.org or scan the QR code below.

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Podcast Series



ACHE of Georgia Event Highlights



We had a great turnout for our January 15 lunch and learn. Panelists from left are Evelyn Rosenthal, Jonathan Watkins, MPA, FACHE, Sabrina Broadnax, and moderator Lamarvia Stinson, MPH.



Group shot of our January 15 lunch and learn organizers and panelists. From left are Programs Committee Chair Trevor Strauss, FACHE; Committee Vice Chair Josef Hobdy, MHA, FACMPE, FACHE; moderator Lamarvia Stinson, MPH; panelist Evelyn Rosenthal; panelist Sabrina Broadnax; panelist Jonathan Watkins, MPA, FACHE; and Committee member David Lluberes, MHA, MBA.



Our Physician Executives Group held its first meeting of the year on January 15 at Wellstar Health System's Catalyst Innovation Center in Midtown.



Our Augusta Local Programs Council held an education and networking event on January 21 at Doctor's Hospital Augusta Campus.



Several of our Physician Executives Group members participated in the Medical Association of Georgia's Physicians' Day at the Capitol on February 4 to advocate for patients and the practice of medicine.

Fellows Recognition (Since January 1)

We recognize the following members who recently recertified their Fellow status since our last newsletter:

- Trevor D. Brand, FACHE
- Sepi Browning, FACHE
- David L. Castleberry, FACHE
- Marty Chafin, FACHE
- Laura Drew, FACHE
- Susan Ibanez, FACHE
- Lorry Lewis, FACHE
- Lindsey H. Petrini, MBA, FACHE
- Lara Sanders, FACHE
- Trevor A. Strauss, FACHE
- Terry L. Thompson, MBA, FACHE
- Samuel S. Thrower, MBA, MHA, LFACHE
- Chase S. Turner, MD, MBA, MHA, FACHE
- Brian Unell, FACHE
- Dena P. Zinker, FACHE

FACHE

Fellow of the American College of Healthcare Executives
The Distinction of Board Certification



ACHE of Georgia Sanford Duke, MD, MBA, FACHE (left) recognized recent Fellow Trent Good, II, FACHE, at our January 15 lunch and learn.



ACHE of Georgia Sanford Duke, MD, MBA, FACHE, also recognized recent Fellow Jennifer Boyette, PhD, FACHE, at our January 15 lunch and learn.

Applications Due March 15!

FACHE

Fellow of the American College of Healthcare Executives
The Distinction of Board Certification

New Scholarship to Support ACHE of Georgia Members Pursuing Fellowship

Apply now for ACHE of Georgia's new FACHE/Board of Governors Exam Support Scholarship. The scholarship provides financial assistance to ACHE of Georgia members who are planning to sit for the Board of Governors exam this year. Up to 10 scholarships, each in the amount of \$750, will be awarded. Applications are due March 15.

Visit acheofgeorgia.org to apply or scan the QR code below.

Social Media



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Application



Membership Report (Since January 1)

New Chapter Members

ACHE of Georgia welcomes the following new ACHE members and members who have transferred to the chapter since January 1. We hope to meet you soon.

- Diane Alvarez
- Blake Anderson
- Ziyah Anderson
- Corbin Ariail
- Nathaniel Arnold, MHA
- Marlon Bevaun
- Sarah A. Blount, MHA
- Travis Byars
- Alex Campo
- Kaleb Carter
- Ramata Doray
- Helen Falkner
- Tim Fischer
- Vanessa R. Fluellen, BSN
- Michele Fos-Foresman
- Drew Freilich
- Bryan Gaines
- Jasmin Gaston, DHA, MHA
- Jody Goellner
- Kerry Griffin, MD
- Katrina Harden
- LaMia Harris
- William Hicks, Jr.
- George E. Hughes
- Haley Huskey
- Jennifer Jackson
- Allison S. Jones
- Raj Kaneriyia
- Peggy Kirkland, MBA, HCM
- Christopher Kunney, EMBA
- Ryan Loke
- Marcela M. Santamaria Long
- Alyssa Lyons
- Robert K. Merritt
- Stacey S. Mitchell
- Ken Montano
- MSG Eugene M. Morgan
- Pricilla E. Morton, BS
- Terrell Neal
- Garrett Nichols
- Omobukola Olaoye, DBA
- Eunice Perry, DNP, MHA, RN
- Regina K. Phillips, MD
- Rogsbert Primrose, MSA
- Liese Redd
- Christopher Reddoch, MD
- Markita L. Richards
- Marie N. Saylor
- Scott Selby
- Drew Suiter
- Michael Taiwo, BSN, RN
- Kimberly Kaye Ward, Esq.
- Brittany White
- Rad Zamani
- Debra Zelnio



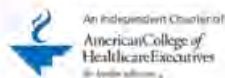
Prepare for the Board of Governors' Exam with ACHE of Georgia's Prep Class Archive

ACHE of Georgia's 2025 Board of Governors Exam Tutorial and Review course was presented over 5 weeks in June and July. The class covered all 10 BOG exam topic areas. To help ACHE members prepare for the BOG Exam, we're offering an archive of all the study materials presented in these sessions for \$50.

Archived materials include links to videos of speakers' topic presentations and slide decks, class videos, quizzes, and quiz answer keys.

Scan the QR Code Below for More Information

Social Media



Repost and + Follow

More Info



Join Our Toastmasters Club

ACHE of Georgia has a virtual Toastmasters club and members and non-members are invited to be a part of our club. [Learn More](#)

Thank You to ACHE of Georgia's 2026 Sponsors

Dear ACHE of Georgia Annual Sponsors,

On behalf of the American College of Healthcare Executives (ACHE) Georgia Chapter, we want to express our sincere thanks for your generous support. Your contributions are essential in helping us advance healthcare leadership in Georgia through professional development programs, networking, and educational initiatives.

Thanks to your sponsorship, we've made significant progress, and we're excited to continue collaborating in 2026 and beyond. Your commitment plays a key role in shaping the future of healthcare leadership, and we are grateful for your partnership. Thank you once again for your support.

Warm regards,
ACHE of Georgia Board of Directors

Find Out More About ACHE of Georgia Sponsorship

If your organization is interested in becoming an ACHE of Georgia sponsor, [click here](#) to visit our sponsorship page.

Platinum Sponsors



Gold Sponsors



Silver Sponsors





ACHE of Georgia Social Media: Connect with the Georgia Healthcare Community!

ACHE of Georgia offers several ways to connect with your healthcare colleagues through social media. Options include LinkedIn, Facebook, Instagram and X/Twitter. To join any of our social media groups, scan the QR code or visit www.acheofgeorgia.org/social.



CALL FOR CONTENT

Content submissions to the ACHE of Georgia newsletter are for reviewed for appropriateness by the Communications Committee. Please send your contributions, including articles, news, member accomplishments and photos to bruce.lloyd@gmail.com, no later than close of business by the 20th day of the last month of each quarter (March, June, September, December). Approved submissions made after this date will be placed into the next newsletter.

Please note that ACHE of Georgia reserves the right to reject submissions that are not consistent with the goals and purposes of the organization. Articles that endorse or appear to endorse specific products, businesses, services, and are self-promotional or advertorial will not be accepted. Subjects that are appropriate deal with healthcare industry news (national and local), career management, leadership, mentoring, diversity and other professional topics. If you are not sure, please ask.

Articles submitted for the newsletter must be relevant to professional development or healthcare administration. Please format content in a Microsoft Word document, left justified, and be 1-2 pages in length. The content of the article must include: title; name of the author; the source the article was obtained from; full URL that links to the article (if applicable). Please submit photographs as email attachments in JPG file format. Please do not embed photographs in your article text. Provide name and affiliation of any person shown in photographs along with a brief caption. When using a reprint article, please provide credit to the author and/or obtain permission to use the article before submission.

ACHE of Georgia reserves the right to edit, change or omit certain content (including photographs) because of length, style, relevance, or simply due to lack of space as deemed appropriate.