

ANNUAL REPORT

a year of growth



Prepared by Christopher Smith, Ed.D.

MESSAGE FROM THE DIRECTOR

Dear ACHE Community,

Serving you as the inaugural Director of Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion is an honor and privilege. To this community of passionately talented and dedicated individuals who undoubtedly believe in and live out the mission of this institution, thank you for welcoming me a year ago; I am immensely proud of everything we have achieved.



This year we witnessed meticulous growth regarding efforts to engage, inspire, and educate on the importance of our differences which is our greatest strength. We will continue building bridges toward a healthier community. In closing, as this office continues fulfilling its vision and purpose, remember the African proverb, “If you want to go fast, go alone; if you want to go far, go together.”

VISION

Our purpose is to promote a culture of success, diversity, equity, and inclusion at the Arkansas Colleges of Health Education through strategic recruitment, retention, education, and partnerships that encourages a sense of belonging and leads to the development of exceptional talent in healthcare and research.

PURPOSE

Transforming Arkansas Colleges of Health Education into a nationally recognized leader of diversity and inclusion while striving to promote health equity, student success, and advocacy.

STRATEGIC PLAN



DEI EDUCATION AND TRAINING

Build institutional capacity to create a more diverse, equitable, and inclusive (DEI) institution.

Pictured is Dr. Loren Robinson, Chief Medical Officer at Christus St. Michael Health System in Texarkana, Texas.

RECRUITMENT AND RETENTION

Recruit and retain a diverse campus community of faculty, staff, and students.



STRATEGIC PLAN



COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT AND PRESENCE

Enhance institutional and community presence as a diversity, equity, and inclusion-focused institution.

Pictured is ACHE Director of Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion, Dr. Christopher Smith, serving on a panel discussion in Downtown Fort Smith.

FUNDING

Establish funding resources for DEI strategic and operational initiatives and programs.



DEI IN ACTION



Pictured is Dr. Rickey Booker, Trainer for IDEALS Institute, University of Arkansas, presenting on allyship.



Pictured is Dr. Andrea Stevenson, Chair, Kinesiology and Social Work, at Fisk University



Pictured is Dr. Ontario Wooden, Provost, Alcorn State University

ACHE

MENTORING AND ACHIEVEMENT PREPARATION PROGRAM

The Arkansas Colleges of Health Education (ACHE) College of Health Science Admissions Department, School of Occupational Therapy (ACHE OT), School of Physical Therapy (ACHE PT), and the Office of Diversity collaborated and established the ACHE M.A.P. (Mentoring and Achievement Preparation) program. This program aims to educate, encourage, equip, and engage diverse students from underrepresented populations considering careers in occupational therapy or physical therapy, so they can positively impact the lives of underserved populations and assist with reducing health disparities for all.

In June 2023, ACHE M.A.P. welcomed its inaugural cohort. After the 3-day program, participants will continue to receive mentorship from program faculty members and currently enrolled students in the ACHE OT and/or ACHE PT programs. Participants will also receive regular invitations from Admissions to participate in future admissions-related application workshops and other informative program events to enhance their knowledge, personal development, and future applications to ACHE OT and PT professional programs.

www.achehealth.edu/diversity

ACHE

MENTORING AND ACHIEVEMENT PREPARATION PROGRAM



Pictured are the inaugural ACHE M.A.P. Program participants (left to right): Nyirah Barnes, Alcorn State University; Kaitlyn Echols, Alcorn State University; Maia Leonard, Louisiana State University; Madison Nelson, Fisk University; Holly Smith, University of Arkansas at Monticello.

2022-2023 HIGHLIGHTS

Established the ACHE Office of Diversity vision, statement of purpose, and webpage.

Developed the ACHE Diversity Fact Sheet.

Developed the ACHE Underrepresented in Medicine (UIM) Student Equity Council.

Conducted an institutional climate survey.

Met with 30 historically black colleges and universities.

Executed four additional affiliation agreements (Alcorn State University, Mississippi Valley State University, Philander Smith College, and the University of Arkansas at Monticello).

Recruited minority community members to serve as community interviewers.

Developed the ACHE Office of Diversity Strategic Plan.

Collaborated with ACHE College of Health Sciences to launch the ACHE M.A.P. (Mentoring and Achievement Preparation) Program.



ACHE



OFFICE OF DIVERSITY



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