NORFOLK

September 25, 2026 | *ACHE CONFERENCE NEWSLETTER #5*

Navigating Uncharted Waters: Leadership, Resilience & Renewal

ACHE 2026

QUICK REMINDERS

BEFORE YOU ARRIVE

✔️ Register for the conference.
✔️ Book your hotel accommodations.
✔️ Plan your travel to Norfolk.
✔️ Review the conference agenda and plan your time in Norfolk.
✔️ Register for the Scholarship Sunset Cruise.
✔️ Download the Whova App

SPECIAL EVENTS

Connect with fellow ACHE attendees beyond the conference sessions:

- **Feel the Love Pre-Conference Edition** (10/2)
- **Welcome Reception (Monday Evening):** Reconnect with colleagues and meet new participants.
- **Awards Luncheon (Tuesday)**: Celebrate excellence and our colleagues who make a difference.
- **Feel the Love Live! (Tuesday):** Build connections across the ACHE community..



SAY "HELLO" - YOUR PEOPLE ARE HERE!



Sharing experiences with others makes networking natural and enjoyable. Research says that exhibiting extroverted rather than introverted behavior makes people happier when connecting with others. Make a plan to find your people, say hello, and maximize your experience. Here are some opportunities: Sit at a table with new people, attend the Welcome Reception, Feel the Love Networking event, and the River Cruise. ACHE offers a smaller conference where you can dive into deeper conversations and get to know others on a personal level. Give it a try and have fun!

ACHE Conference Team

THANK YOU TO OUR 2026 PARTNERS!

We are grateful to our 2026 Conference Partners for their generous support of ACHE. We appreciate your commitment to the ACHE community.

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KEYNOTE SPEAKER

The Only Way Through is With



Lu Hanessian is a biopsychosocial educator, trauma-informed practitioner, and conflict resilience researcher whose work is grounded in the premise: do no harm, beginning with ourselves.

As adjunct professor at NYU's Center for Global Affairs and the University of San Diego's Kroc School for Peace and Justice Studies, she designs and teaches graduate courses on trauma-informed fieldwork, the neuroscience of stress resilience, embodied conflict resolution, and healing-centered leadership.

Lu's work explores how we expand our capacity -- individually and collectively -- to stay embodied and connected through stress, conflict, and uncertainty, while cultivating the relational resilience and interdependence needed to move through complexity together.

MEET NORFOLK'S GHOSTLY RESIDENTS!

Founded in the early 17th century, Norfolk has centuries of stories and even a few lingering spirits. Visit the Myers House, where ghosts are said to roam. At the Wells Theatre, "Ned" reportedly hides props backstage. "Mr. B" is known for some mysterious mischief in the kitchen of Freemason Abbey. Are these tales true or just good stories? Explore Norfolk's haunted side and decide for yourself!

FEEL THE LOVE

Tuesday, October 27, 3:15-4:00p.m.

Join your ACHE Professional Family for the "Feel the Love" in-person conference social event to connect in a fun atmosphere of music, games, networking and laughter. Give yourself a needed break and brain boost with an entertaining 45-minutes of friendship and engagement. Hosted by Bryan Best, University of La Verne; Clayton Mack, North Carolina Central University; and Patti Spaniola, University of West Florida. You won't want to miss it!

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS:

WHO'S JOINING US IN NORFOLK THIS OCTOBER?

This year, ACHE is bringing together professionals from more than **40 colleges and universities across the country**! From California to New York, attendees represent roles ranging from academic advisors and program specialists to professors, deans, executive directors, and vice chancellors, creating opportunities to connect and exchange ideas across continuing higher education.

Share your stories, big or small, and let's inspire each other at ***#ACHEcon26***.

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