



79<sup>TH</sup> ANNUAL ACHE  
CONFERENCE & MEETING  
AWARDS PROGRAM



**ACHE**

ASSOCIATION FOR CONTINUING HIGHER EDUCATION, INC.



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# Strategic Connections - Collaborative Success

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In order to stimulate, encourage, and reward outstanding contributions to the advancement of continuing higher education, the Association has established awards to recognize and honor individuals and groups for their exemplary service to the Association and the profession.

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# Rising Star Award

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Given for the first time in 2013, winners of the ACHE Rising Star Award are recognized for being outstanding rising leaders and program developers at ACHE member institutions or organizations. They must have no more than five years of experience working in the field of adult and continuing education and have developed, significantly contributed to the development of, or extended an outstanding program or division within a continuing education unit. The three recipients of the 2017 Rising Star Award are Megan Veach, Danielle Schukoske, and Ashley Nietfeld.

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## Megan Veach



Megan Veach joined the continuing education field in April 2013. She manages all non-credit healthcare career training programs and provides customizing training solutions for corporate and nonprofit organizations. She also oversees the administration of Continuing Education Units (CEUs) for non-credit formal learning experiences and assists with conference planning services.

Megan holds a Bachelor of Science in Psychology from the University of West Florida (UWF) and will graduate this fall with her Master's in Healthcare Administration and a certificate in Nonprofit Administration from UWF.

## Danielle Schukoske



Danielle Schukoske is the Program Manager for Online Learning at Florida Institute of Technology, a position she has held since February 2013. Danielle diligently works on shaping the online student experience by focusing on areas of orientation, student retention, and student services policy development. In addition, Danielle has been appointed as Title IX Deputy Coordinator and serves as the Secretary for the Staff Advisory Committee. She considers herself a lifelong learner, and enjoys

any opportunity to further her education. She is currently working toward a doctorate in business administration.

## Ashley Nietfeld



Ashley Nietfeld is a marketing and communications specialist for Kansas State University Global Campus. In her role, Ashley develops, executes, and evaluates strategic marketing plans for online credit programs and creates and manages the production of marketing materials for those programs. She helped implement a new customer relationship management system for Global Campus, and plays a leading role in developing all communications sent during the recruitment process. Between 2015 and 2016, she

served as the vice chair of networking and communications for the University Professional and Continuing Education Association. Her writing for the K-State Summer School marketing campaign has been recognized with multiple awards at both the regional and national levels. Ashley is the recipient of the 2017 K-State Global Campus Lynda Spire Positive Focus Award and the 2017 UPCEA Central Region Continuing Education Support Specialist Award.

# Leadership Award

This award is the highest award presented by ACHE and recognizes an individual who has made extraordinary contributions in leadership, theory, and practice in continuing higher education on a national or international level. The focus of this recognition is on the contributions of a general nature that extend beyond Association activities. The recipient of the 2017 Leadership Award is Derek Bardell.

## Derek Bardell



Derek D. Bardell is a veteran educator in the greater New Orleans metropolitan area who currently serves as an Adjunct Professor of Business Administration and Teaching and Learning at Delgado Community College. He holds a Bachelor of Arts degree in Business Management/Urban Studies and Public Policy from Dillard University and a Master of Liberal Arts in Interdisciplinary Liberal Arts and a Master of Arts in Civic and Cultural Management, both from Tulane University. He is also the recipient of the

prestigious Higher One Financial Literacy Grant and his name is listed in the textbook *Organizational Behavior* by Nahavandi, et al (Copyright 2015).



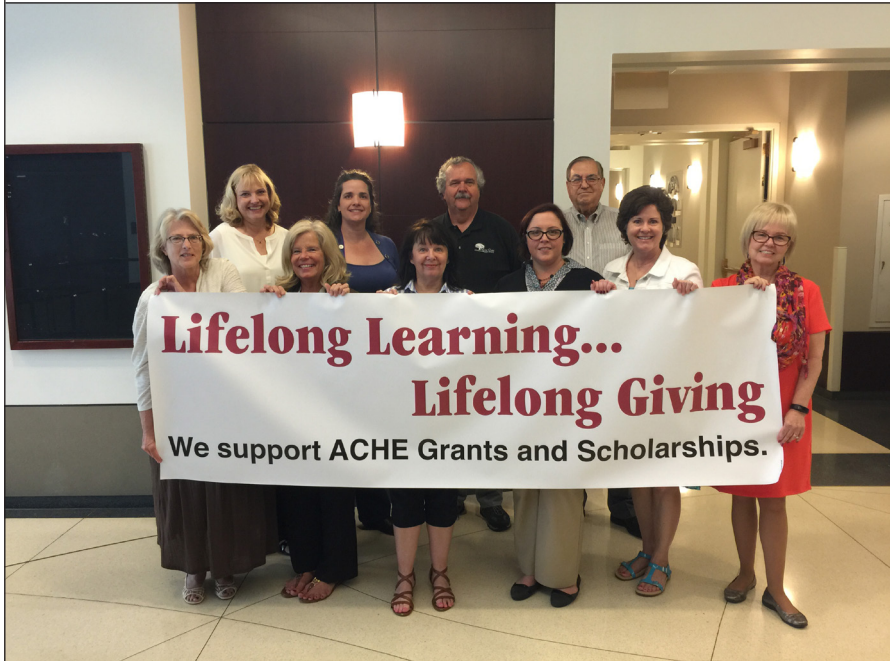
# ACHE

Each year, ACHE spearheads a fundraising drive as a part of the Annual Conference to raise money for grants and scholarships. Donate today and help us reach our goal of \$3,500 to help support the educational goals of graduate students studying in the field of adult and continuing higher education.

*<http://acheinc.org/Donation>*

All proceeds go to fund our grants and scholarships.

ACHE is a 501(c)3 non-profit organization. All donations are tax deductible.



# Crystal Marketing Award

The Crystal Marketing Award is given annually and honors organizations achieving successful results from a marketing communications tool in print, broadcast, and electronic media. The strategic approach, quality of the work, and results achieved are important criteria in determining award recipients.

## University of West Florida Continuing Education Applied Behavior Analysis

### ***Program Coordinator:***

Jenny Hinely, Marketing and Creative Manager, UWF Continuing Education

The Applied Behavior Analysis (ABA) program at UWF prepares students to become certified behavior analysts leaders in the field of ABA. Analysts in this field engage in the specific and comprehensive use of the science of behavior including operant and respondent conditioning, to address behavioral needs of widely varying individuals in diverse settings. This Audience Engagement Campaign focused on building engagement with prospective students and current ABA certified professionals.

# **Distinguished Program Awards – Credit and Non-Credit**

Distinguished Program Awards recognize outstanding credit and non-credit programs at ACHE member institutions.

To receive an award, the program must meet the following criteria:

1. Originality or innovation – a program should be judged original or innovative in two or more of the following areas:
  - Serving a new or unique audience
  - Employing a new or unique delivery system
  - Marketing and promoting in new or unique ways or using new or unique materials
  - Utilizing resources and/or facilities in new or unique ways
  - Cooperating in a new or different way with other institutions or in consortial arrangements
  - Involving original or innovative topics, content, or program design
2. Successful – a program must fulfill all of the following:
  - Receive positive responses from the target group as demonstrated in evaluations with measurable outcomes
  - Meet budget requirements appropriate for and defined by its goals and objectives

# Credit Program Award

## Choctaw University Choctaw University Leadership Symposium

***Program Coordinators: Becky Hicks, Director of Choctaw University  
Shawn Young, Choctaw University Instructor***

Choctaw University (CU) is a professional development program of the Choctaw Nation of Oklahoma (CNO). Through a unique partnership with Southeastern Oklahoma State University (SE), CU offers an accredited program of study to associates interested in pursuing college credit while developing leadership skills to further their career progress at CNO. The CU Leadership Symposium program design is innovative in its purpose: to showcase CU senior level students, recruit for the CU program, and to offer leadership development training to all associates of CNO. Student learning is showcased through the assigned task of developing and delivering breakout sessions for the event. The CU program leans heavily on its partnership with the Native American Institute at SE. The advisors and staff of the Native American Institute act as university liaisons for students of Choctaw University. For the CU Leadership Symposium, the partnership serves a major role by connecting CU program staff with resources and facilities on campus.

# Credit Program Award

## Drexel University The Military Transition Program

***Program Coordinators: Chris Young, Assistant Director – Transfer Admissions and Veteran Affairs; Tim Gilrain, Assistant Dean – Goodwin College of Professional Studies; Rebecca Weidensaul, Assistant Vice President – Student Life; Lamont Wilson, Director – Goodwin College of Professional Studies; John Rans, Senior Academic Advisor – Goodwin College of Professional Studies; Amy Gulyas, Academic Advisor – Godwin College of Professional Studies***

The Military Transition Program (MTP) at Drexel University is a two-term transition program offered through the Goodwin College to military service men and women seeking admission to a degree program at Drexel University. Aspiring veterans who do not meet the requirements of their desired Drexel program are invited to the MTP, where they receive support from Goodwin College Degree Completion Programs in establishing a path of success through a clear plan of study, strategies for adjusting to academic life at Drexel, and collaboration with advising teams in the student's desired major. After two terms in the MTP, students matriculate into a degree program at Drexel.

Before the MTP was established, veteran students who did not meet program requirements were left with the options of attending a different school or applying again for a future term; the MTP provides a quicker pathway for veterans to earn their degree, maximizing their ability to use benefits from the GI Bill. As of the '16-'17 academic year, the program is now able to grant students full-time status, allowing them to apply for financial aid to supplement their Yellow Ribbon benefits. Drexel has successfully enrolled both on-campus and online students into the program.

# Non-Credit Program Award

## Kansas State University Global Campus Rural Grocery Summit

***Program Coordinators: Chandra Ruthstrom, Program Coordinator  
Christina Khan, Program Associate***

The Rural Grocery Summit, held annually in America's heartland, aims to bring together rural grocery stakeholders from across the country to discuss the gradual disappearance of rural grocery stores. They discuss how best to sustain what's left, and foster opportunities for growth, of this critical piece of community infrastructure. The community is encouraged to attend and participate in the discussion about how best to sustain rural grocery stores.

In the corporate world, this would seem like a routine business workshop, but for many of the rural grocers attending this conference, the Summit is the one chance each year to network with others facing similar issues.

# Credit Program

## Creative Use of Technology Award

This annual award recognizes ACHE members for their innovative uses of instructional and distance learning technologies in lifelong learning. Both credit and non-credit programs are eligible for nomination, as are uses of learning technology for student services, research, marketing, or administrative projects.

### Middle Tennessee State University Using an ePortfolio in an Adult Degree Program

***Program Coordinators: Dianna Rust, Associate Professor; Layne Bryant, Course Developer, Coordinator***

In order to better serve adult students, MTSU's University College offers online degrees in Liberal Studies and Professional Studies. Students are required to complete a common capstone course. After a review of the use and benefit of ePortfolios at other institutions, the program coordinator and capstone course developer decided to pilot an ePortfolio for these majors in Fall 2013. Goals of this ePortfolio initiative were to:

- measure students' media communication abilities
- enable students to connect multiple types of experiences
- allow students to document and reflect on learning
- market knowledge and skills to employers

The ePortfolio assignment requires students to complete a personal introduction, professional goals, reflections and evidence of knowledge and skills, and contact information. The adult students benefited from the review of their learning, which is necessary when selecting artifacts and writing reflections. They became more aware of their learning and accomplishments. One student said "I thought the process for developing an online portfolio was one of the most helpful projects I worked on in college. While developing the online portfolio I was able to learn what skills and qualities I should highlight. Creating an online portfolio allowed me to write about myself. I was able to learn about myself."

# Non-Credit Program Creative Use of Technology Award

This annual award recognizes ACHE members for their innovative uses of instructional and distance learning technologies in lifelong learning. Both credit and non-credit programs are eligible for nomination, as are uses of learning technology for student services, research, marketing, or administrative projects.

## Neumann University Orientation on Demand

***Program Coordinators: Jackie Martin, MS, Senior Academic Advisor, Division of Continuing Adult and Professional Studies, Neumann University; Dr. Jilian Donnelly, Dean, Division of Continuing Adult and Professional Studies, Neumann University.***

Orientation programs are essential to promote success among adults, evening, and online students. The goal of creating on-demand video mini-guides was to replicate and reinforce topics covered in the on-campus orientation program. Consistent with the mission of Neumann University, the video mini-guides were developed in the spirit that knowledge is a gift to be shared with others.

The cost to develop the video mini-guides was minimal. The project utilized technology software readily available in the higher education setting - Microsoft Office: PowerPoint and Windows Media Video. The videos explore a variety of topics: activating IT accounts, succeeding in online learning, research techniques, creating voice-over PowerPoint presentations, navigating the WebAdvisor account, and an introduction to the University library. The video mini-guides provide 24/7 support for approximately 200 Neumann University adult, evening, and online learners.



# Outstanding Services to Underserved Populations Award

This award recognizes ACHE members for innovative lifelong learning programs that demonstrate outstanding service to underserved populations.

## Kansas State University Global Campus Integrated Language Skills

***Program Coordinators: Ashley Valentini, Instructor; Melissa Holmes, Associate Director; Dr. Socorro Herrera, Professor***

The Integrated Language Skills Program is a non-credit partnership between Kansas State University Global Campus and the Center for Intercultural and Multilingual Advocacy (CIMA). The program was implemented in 2016 and its aim was for English teachers living in Mexico to gain additional proficiency in speaking and writing English.

The project was free to the program registrants, paid for by a grant by COMEXUS, a binational organization functioning as a partnership between Mexico and the United States which supports students, researchers, and teachers and is funded by both governments. The program lasted 12 weeks and featured 12 modules designed to develop reading, writing, listening, grammar, and speaking skills.

The course was developed as a way to support English teachers abroad who don't typically get many opportunities to refine their language skills in a Spanish-speaking country. Much like foreign-language teachers in the United States, additional training and practice is necessary to gain fluency and continue to be effective teachers. This program reached the underserved in a variety of ways, directly helping the teachers and indirectly helping Mexican students who wish to learn English in school by properly equipping their teachers.

# Older Adult Model Program Award

This award recognizes an ACHE member for a program or activity that provides outstanding learning opportunities and/or service to an older adult population.

## **Texas Christian University TCU Silver Frogs Lifelong Learning Institute**

***Program Coordinators: Julie Lovett, Associate Director of Extended Education; David Grebel, Director of TCU Extended Education***

The TCU Silver Frogs Lifelong Learning Institute at Texas Christian University is a membership organization for individuals 50+ who have a love for learning and community. Established in Spring 2015 with 160 members, the institute has grown to 410 members in six semesters, selling out memberships every semester. As a member-driven organization with an advisory board, participants take advantage of daytime non-credit, four-week courses and one-time lectures facilitated by Silver Frog members, TCU faculty, and community members. Large luncheon lectures with guest speakers are held three times each semester and special events are offered as well.

The program is housed within TCU Extended Education with existing staff as a significant community outreach initiative. TCU provides university guidance, financial oversight, and program support. Upwards of 3,000 registrations are processed each semester as the program grows. With an 84% retention rate, members have found a community that is valuable to them and to the university. Challenges are evident in securing adequate daytime space—the program currently uses one classroom and periodic use of one lecture room—,increasing diversity in membership, and ongoing recruitment of committee volunteers. The challenges are worth the effort and reward.

# 2017 Awards Committee

## Chair

Lisa Schmidt, Murray State University

## Members

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Jie Ke, Jackson State University

Marilyn Read, Delta State University

Laura Ricke, Western Kentucky University

Harry Williamson, Kansas State University Global Campus

Patricia McCanna, North Park University

Long Huynh, Kansas State University Global Campus

Sara Conwell, Northern Kentucky University

Kimberly McCoy, Northern Kentucky University

Donna San Miguel, California State University San Marcos

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To see a history of awards and honors conferred by the Association for Continuing Higher Education, please visit our website at [www.acheinc.org/Awards-Honors](http://www.acheinc.org/Awards-Honors).



# ACHE

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