

ACHE 2024 AWARD PROGRAM

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Associate Dean for Faculty Affairs
East Tennessee State University, Quillen College of Medicine

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Retired Director of Extended Education
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2024 Awards Committee

Chairs

Brandi Huskey
Jeni Maple

Committee Members

Cassidy Huntsman, University of Utah
Whitney Marlowe, East Tennessee State University

Individual Awards

Leadership Award

Award Description

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 2024 ACHE Leadership Award is:

Amy Johnson

Associate Dean for Faculty Affairs
East Tennessee State University, Quillen College of Medicine



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Dr. Amy Denise Johnson has more than 20 years of experience in continuing higher education, adult degree programming, teaching and faculty development. As Associate Dean for Faculty Affairs, her work is devoted to improving the quality of work for all faculty within the college. Her primary duties include faculty development, managing faculty evaluation sessions, and leadership development. Historically, her scholarship has focused on the science of student learning, success factors for adult and non-traditional students, and, more recently, on interprofessional education and training. She has a long history of service to the International Association for Continuing Higher Education, having served as in many roles including President of the Association. Dr. Johnson earned her B.A. from the College of William and Mary in Virginia and a M.A. and Ed.D. from East Tennessee State University. As a person, Amy also values spending time with her son and husband. She enjoys a good campfire that is surrounded by good conversation, a few guitars, and lots of singing voices. She is a big fan of Americana and Folk music, low brow novels, true crime podcasts, and almost all HBO series.

Meritorious Service Award

Award Description

This award recognizes individuals for their outstanding leadership, performance, and service to continuing higher education at their own institution and within the Association for a minimum of 5 years.

The recipient of the 2024 ACHE Meritorious Service Award is:

David Grebel

Retired Director of Extended Education
Texas Christian University



David has been active in ACHE since 1997 and has served in a variety of roles including president, board member, budget and finance chair, regional chair, and financial director for numerous ACHE annual meetings. He's made multiple presentations at both national and international conferences on adult and continuing education. He also served as a board member for the American Association for Adult and Continuing Education and for the Coalition of Lifelong Learning Organizations. David spent 30 years in higher education serving for the final 23 years as Director of Extended Education for Texas Christian University prior to his retirement in 2020. He remains active in his community serving on a variety of non-profit and municipal boards and as co-chair of a local anti-racism council. He currently serves as the pastor for the interim at Celebration Community Church in Fort Worth and recently completed 13 years as Broadway Baptist Church's Agape Meal pastor for persons experiencing

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homelessness. An avid cyclist, voracious reader and occasional actor (his favorite role is of the son, Boolie Werthen, in *Driving Miss Daisy*) David is married to Katherine Godby and is the father of three adult children and grandfather to four perfect grandchildren.

Rising Star Award

Award Description

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 or significantly contributed to the development or extension of an outstanding program or division within a continuing education unit.

The recipients of the 2024 ACHE Rising Star Award are:

Hannah Regitz

Instructor, Strategic and Personal Communication
Liberty University



Hannah Naylor Regitz teaches Strategic and Personal Communication at Liberty University. She specializes in strategic communication and public relations, with an emphasis on digital marketing strategies. A creative storyteller at heart, Hannah brings a wealth of experience from the nonprofit sector, education, and market research. Hannah is passionate about using social media to create meaningful connections and improve promotional efforts. She is dedicated to teaching her students essential communication skills and providing them with real-world marketplace experience. Her goal is to instill confidence and passion in her students and equip them with the necessary educational and personal skills to succeed vocationally. Hannah is pursuing a Ph.D. in Communication at Liberty University, with an anticipated graduation date of 2026. Her research focuses on relational teaching efforts and enhancing strategic communication and public relations practices in a rapidly evolving digital landscape. This research further enriches her expertise and contributions to the fields of education and communication.

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Program Awards

Distinguished Program Awards – Credit and Non-Credit

Award Description

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

The recipient of the 2024 ACHE Distinguished Program Award - Credit is:

Military Transition Program

Drexel University, Goodwin College of Professional Studies

Program Coordinator

Dr. Tina Marie Coolidge
Director of Programs and Recruitment

Program Description

Drexel University's Military Transition Program (MTP) exemplifies excellence in supporting military veterans through a tailored, innovative approach to higher education. Launched through Goodwin College, MTP addresses the needs of veterans who do not initially meet the admission requirements for their desired degree programs. This two-term program is designed to provide a structured pathway to success, enabling veterans to transition seamlessly into Drexel's rigorous academic environment and ultimately matriculate into their chosen degree programs. The MTP offers a comprehensive support structure, integrating academic advising, career services, and emotional support to foster veteran success. Veterans enrolled in the program benefit from a personalized plan of study, intrusive advising, and collaboration with academic advising teams in their intended majors. This tailored approach helps veterans overcome academic barriers and prepares them for success in their degree programs. A major innovation of the MTP is its ability to grant full-time student status to participants. This development, introduced in the 2016-2017 academic year, allows veterans to qualify for additional financial aid beyond their GI Bill benefits. This enhancement ensures that veterans can fully utilize their educational resources and complete their degrees in a timely manner.

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The recipient of the 2024 ACHE Distinguished Program Award – Non-Credit is:

Palmetto College iCarolina Lab Network
University of South Carolina, Palmetto College

Program Coordinator

Dr. Susan Elkins
Chancellor, University of South Carolina, Palmetto College

Program Description

Through a partnership between the University of South Carolina (USC) Palmetto College, the USC Office of Economic Engagement, and Apple, the Palmetto College iCarolina Lab Network was launched to provide free internet and workforce development in rural South Carolina. The project began as a 2021 proposal and now operates eight sites, offering access to Apple products and digital training, including free coding certification in Apple's Swift language. Located near broadband deserts, these labs have received over 31,000 visits to date, fostering economic development and bridging digital divides. With \$3 million in state funding, the project retrofitted facilities, hired staff, and partnered with public libraries to maximize community impact. Through these resources, residents gain technical skills and internet access, addressing long-standing infrastructure challenges in underserved areas.

Creative Use of Technology Award

Award Description

The Creative Use of Technology Award recognizes ACHE members for their innovative uses of instructional and distance learning technologies in lifelong learning. Innovation, quality of the work, results achieved, and adaptability to other settings or institutions are important criteria in determining award recipients.

The recipient of the 2024 ACHE Creative Use of Technology Award - Credit is:

Palmetto College iCarolina Lab Network
University of South Carolina, Palmetto College

Program Coordinator

Dr. Susan Elkins
Chancellor, University of South Carolina, Palmetto College

Program Description

Through a partnership between the University of South Carolina (USC) Palmetto College, the USC Office of Economic Engagement, and Apple, the Palmetto College iCarolina Lab Network was launched to provide free internet and workforce development in rural South Carolina. The project began as a 2021 proposal and now operates eight sites, offering access to Apple products and digital training, including free coding certification in Apple's Swift language. Located near broadband deserts, these labs have received over 31,000 visits to date, fostering economic development and bridging digital divides. With \$3 million in state funding, the project retrofitted facilities, hired staff, and partnered with public libraries to maximize community

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impact. Through these resources, residents gain technical skills and internet access, addressing long-standing infrastructure challenges in underserved areas.

Outstanding Services to Underserved Populations Award – Credit and Non-Credit

Award Description

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

The recipient of the 2024 ACHE Outstanding Services to Underserved Populations Award - Credit is:

Dyslexia Teacher Training
University of La Verne, La Fetra College of Education

Program Coordinator
Shana Matamala
Assistant Dean, Academic Affairs

Program Description

With an emphasis on neurodiversity, mindfulness, and accessibility, the Dyslexia Teacher Training Program focuses on teaching advanced methods of reading intervention to educators. This program is currently in its fifth year and runs through the semester-based traditional school year. It is designed for K-12 teachers, literacy specialists, and educational therapists who serve students with dyslexia and other reading disabilities. Both the content and principles of delivering instruction are consistent with Structured Literacy and based on the Orton-Gillingham approach for teaching basic oral and written language skills. This program provides graduate-level knowledge of language development, dyslexia, and an explicit structured multisensory approach to reading. The program and its curriculum was created in partnership with experts at Fairleigh-Dickinson University, a longstanding, IMSLEC-accredited dyslexia program. The program has two tracks: a one-year track and a three-year track. Participants in the Teacher Level begin the program with an intense two-day in-person orientation at the start of each term and attend weekly online synchronous seminars.

The recipient of the 2024 ACHE Outstanding Services to Underserved Populations Award – Non Credit is:

Palmetto College iCarolina Lab Network
University of South Carolina, Palmetto College

Program Coordinator
Dr. Susan Elkins
Chancellor, University of South Carolina, Palmetto College

Program Description

Through a partnership between the University of South Carolina (USC) Palmetto College, the

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USC Office of Economic Engagement, and Apple, the Palmetto College iCarolina Lab Network was launched to provide free internet and workforce development in rural South Carolina. The project began as a 2021 proposal and now operates eight sites, offering access to Apple products and digital training, including free coding certification in Apple's Swift language. Located near broadband deserts, these labs have received over 31,000 visits to date, fostering economic development and bridging digital divides. With \$3 million in state funding, the project retrofitted facilities, hired staff, and partnered with public libraries to maximize community impact. Through these resources, residents gain technical skills and internet access, addressing long-standing infrastructure challenges in underserved areas.

Older Adult Model Program Award – Credit and Non Credit

Award Description

The Older Adult Model Program Award recognizes an ACHE member for a program or activity that provides outstanding learning opportunities and/or service to an older adult population. Both credit and non-credit programs are awarded.

The recipient of the 2024 ACHE Older Adult Model Program Award - Credit is:

Preliminary Administrative Services Credential
University of La Verne, La Fetra College of Education

Program Coordinator

Shana Matamala
Assistant Dean, Academic Affairs

Program Description

The Preliminary Administrative Services Credential (PASC) program at LaFetra College of Education, University of La Verne, is designed to prepare educators for leadership roles in K-12 educational settings. This rigorous and comprehensive program provides candidates with the knowledge, skills, and dispositions necessary to excel as school administrators and educational leaders. The PASC program is committed to developing transformative leaders who are equipped to foster equitable and inclusive school environments, drive instructional improvement, and effectively manage school operations. The program offers a unique blend of theory and practice, ensuring that candidates not only understand the foundational principles of educational leadership but also apply these principles in real-world settings. Through partnerships with local school districts, candidates participate in fieldwork experiences that allow them to engage directly with the challenges and opportunities of school leadership. The program's curriculum covers critical areas such as leadership and ethics, instructional leadership, school law, finance, and community relations, providing a well-rounded education that addresses the multifaceted nature of school administration.

The recipient of the 2024 ACHE Older Adult Model Program Award – Non Credit is:

Osher Lifelong Learning Institute
California State University, Dominguez Hills

Program Coordinator

Fawn Supernawl

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Director, OLLI

Program Description

The primary goal of OLLI@CSUDH is to create a dynamic learning environment that empowers older adults to pursue their intellectual interests, stay socially connected, and lead vibrant, engaged lives. Our objectives include offering diverse, high-quality courses, fostering a sense of community, and promoting lifelong learning as a key component of healthy aging. We align our goals with the university's strategic plan. Keeping with these goals we are a bridge between the local community and the university through older adult members and volunteerism.