

For Immediate Release

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David A. Stark, FACHE, Receives ACHE's Robert S. Hudgens Award

CHICAGO, January 09, 2008—David A. Stark, FACHE, executive vice president and chief operating officer, Iowa Health—Des Moines (Iowa), has won the American College of Healthcare Executives 2008 Robert S. Hudgens Memorial Award for young healthcare executive of the year. Stark will receive the award on Monday, March 10, 2008, at the Parker B. Francis Distinguished Lecture during ACHE's 51st Congress on Healthcare Leadership in Chicago.

The Hudgens Award is presented annually to an exceptional healthcare executive who is less than 40 years old and who is the chief executive officer or chief operating officer of a health services organization. The award was established in 1969 by the Alumni/ae Association of the Department of Health Administration at Virginia Commonwealth University, Richmond, in tribute to its former course director and ACHE's first vice president, Robert S. Hudgens, FACHE.

In 1996, Stark received his master's degree from the University of Iowa and then served an administrative fellowship at Iowa Health—Des Moines. He was subsequently promoted to the position of assistant to the CEO. Shortly thereafter, Stark was selected to serve as interim CEO for one of the system's rural hospital affiliates, and following this interim role he was named as the chief operations officer for Iowa Lutheran Hospital.

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In 1999, his success led to expanded responsibilities as operations chief for both Iowa Lutheran Hospital and Iowa Methodist Medical Center. In 2003, Stark was named executive vice president and chief operating officer of Iowa Health—Des Moines.

Board certified in healthcare management as an ACHE Fellow, Stark participated in an effort to form an ACHE chapter in Iowa, the Iowa Association of Healthcare Leaders. He stepped forward and accepted the position of president-elect and currently serves as president of the chapter. Stark is a board member of the First American Bank Holding Company, Des Moines Ronald McDonald House, John Stoddard Cancer Center, the Des Moines University Community Advisory Board, and serves on the Management and Marketing Advisory Council for Iowa State University. He also is a teacher with the Junior Achievement Program, volunteers with the Variety Club Telethon and chairs the Medical and Dental division for the Central Iowa United Way annual campaign.

He has been honored with several awards, including the Iowa ACHE Regent's award for Young Regent Executive of the Year, Best Up and Coming Leader Under Forty (past three years) by *The Des Moines Business Record*, named to the Forty under Forty Class in the greater Des Moines area, and named one of the Top 12 People to Shape Des Moines Communities Future.

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American College of Healthcare Executives

The American College of Healthcare Executives is an international professional society of more than 30,000 healthcare executives who lead hospitals, healthcare systems and other healthcare organizations. ACHE is known for its prestigious credentialing and educational programs and its annual Congress on Healthcare Leadership, which draws more than 4,000 participants each year. ACHE also is known for its journals, the *Journal of Healthcare Management* and *Frontiers of Health Services Management*, and its magazine, *Healthcare Executive*, as well as ground-breaking research and career development and public policy programs. ACHE's publishing division, Health Administration Press, is one of the largest publishers of books and journals on all aspects of health services management in addition to textbooks for use in college and university courses. Through such efforts, ACHE works toward its goal of being the premier professional society for healthcare leaders by providing exceptional value to its members.

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