

## For Immediate Release

Contact: Kay A. Branz  
Vice President, Communications and Marketing  
(312) 424-9420  
kbranz@ache.org



American College of  
Healthcare Executives  
*for leaders who care®*

Suite 1700  
One North Franklin Street  
Chicago, Illinois 60606-3529  
(312) 424-2800 Phone  
(312) 424-0023 Fax  
ache@ache.org

### **William C. Schoenhard, FACHE, Receives ACHE's Gold Medal Award**

**CHICAGO, January 21, 2010**—William C. Schoenhard, FACHE, Deputy Under Secretary for Health for Operations and Management at the United States Department of Veterans Affairs in Washington, D.C., is the recipient of the American College of Healthcare Executives 2010 Gold Medal Award. Schoenhard will receive the award on Monday, March 22, 2010, at the Arthur C. Bachmeyer Memorial Address and Luncheon during ACHE's 53rd Congress on Healthcare Leadership in Chicago.

The Gold Medal Award is ACHE's highest honor bestowed on outstanding leaders who, through a career of service, have made significant contributions to the healthcare field. The purpose of this award is to identify Fellows of the American College of Healthcare Executives who best exemplify leadership at the organizational, local, state/provincial and national levels. The Gold Medal Award recognizes individuals who go beyond the confines of their own organization to continually contribute to the improvement of healthcare services and community health.

Schoenhard's knowledge, experience, leadership, service and passion for the healthcare field have been the hallmarks of his career, which began in 1974 as an administrative resident at the Deaconess Hospital in St. Louis.

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He rose to vice president and director of general services before leaving in 1978. He then accepted the position of assistant executive director at SSM St. Mary's Health Center in St. Louis, which began his long and distinguished career at SSM hospitals. In 1981 he joined SSM Arcadia Valley Hospital in Pilot Knob, Mo., as executive director, and in 1982 he left to become executive director at both SSM St. Joseph Health Center in St. Charles, Mo., and St. Joseph Hospital West in Lake St. Louis, Mo. In 1986 Schoenhard was promoted to executive vice president and chief operating officer at SSM Health Care's corporate office in St. Louis.

Under his tenure as executive vice president and chief operating officer at SSM Health Care, Schoenhard guided the system through the largest period of institutional and financial growth in its history, achieving an AA bond rating. In 2002 SSM Health Care became the first healthcare recipient of the Malcolm Baldrige National Quality Award, the nation's premier award for excellence. And the following year, Schoenhard was the only healthcare executive appointed to the Missouri Commission on Patient Safety.

Among his other accomplishments at SSM Health Care are the development and implementation of innovative systems, policies and procedures, some of which are now considered best practices in the healthcare field.

Schoenhard's exemplary record of leadership extends far beyond the walls of SSM Health Care's hospitals. The respect and esteem of his colleagues and his passionate commitment to the continuing development of the healthcare profession also were evident during his service as board member and chair of the Missouri Hospital Association and as a board member of the American Hospital Association.

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Schoenhard retired from SSM Health Care in August 2009 and took the position of Deputy Under Secretary for Health for Operations and Management at the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs in Washington, D.C.

In addition to the roles listed above, Schoenhard served on the College of Business Management Advisory Board at the University of Missouri—Columbia and was a member of the board of directors at Mid-America Transplant Services, most recently serving as vice chairman. In addition, he served as a member of the finance committee for the Catholic Health Association of the United States and on the board of directors of Lindenwood University.

Schoenhard has received many awards throughout his career including the distinguished service award from the Missouri Hospital Association, the distinguished alumnus award from the graduate program in healthcare administration from Washington University in St. Louis and the Exemplary Service Award from the St. Louis University School of Public Health.

He earned a Master of Health Administration degree from the Washington University School of Medicine in St. Louis and a Bachelor of Science in Public Administration degree from the University of Missouri—Columbia. Schoenhard also served in the United States Navy from 1971 to 1972 as the damage control officer aboard the USS Samuel Gompers.

Schoenhard was awarded ACHE's Exemplary Service Award in 2008 and a Regent's Award in 2002. He also served on numerous ACHE committees, as Regent from 1997 to 2001, Governor from 2002 to 2005 and Chairman-Elect, Chairman and Immediate Past Chairman from 2005 to 2008. His leadership as chairman of the Credentialing Task Force from 2005 to 2007 and as chairman of ACHE's Healthcare Executive-Supplier Relationship Task Force from 2007 to 2008 was instrumental to the success of several critical and high-profile ACHE initiatives.

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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 FACHE<sup>®</sup> credential, signifying board certification in healthcare management, and its educational programs including the annual Congress on Healthcare Leadership, which draws more than 4,000 participants each year. ACHE's established network of more than 80 chapters provides access to networking, education and career development at the local level. In addition, ACHE is known for its magazine, *Healthcare Executive*, and its journals, the *Journal of Healthcare Management* and *Frontiers of Health Services Management*, as well as groundbreaking research, 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 including textbooks for use in college and university courses. Through such efforts, ACHE works toward its goal of being the premier professional society for healthcare executives dedicated to improving healthcare delivery.

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