

For Immediate Release

ACHE Announces Recipients of Highest Individual Awards

CHICAGO, Jan. 15, 2015—The American College of Healthcare Executives announces the following 2015 award winners: **Kevin E. Lofton, FACHE**, and **Richard J. Umbdenstock, FACHE**, are recipients of the Gold Medal Award, and **Mario J. Garner, EdD, FACHE**, is the recipient of the Robert S. Hudgens Memorial Award for Young Healthcare Executive of the Year.

The Gold Medal Award is ACHE's highest honor bestowed on outstanding leaders. 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.

Lofton, CEO of Catholic Health Initiatives, Englewood, Colo., served on ACHE's Council of Regents from 1995 to 1998. A member of ACHE since 1980, Lofton was the 1993 recipient of the Robert S. Hudgens Memorial Award for Young Healthcare Executive of the Year.

Umbdenstock, president and CEO of the American Hospital Association, Washington, D.C., served on ACHE's Leadership Advisory Committee from 1994 to 2002. He has served as president and CEO of the American Hospital Association since 2007 and announced he will retire from the AHA at the end of 2015.

Lofton and Umbdenstock will receive their awards on Monday, March 16, 2015, at the Opening Session during ACHE's 58th Congress on Healthcare Leadership in Chicago.

Mario J. Garner, EdD, FACHE, president and CEO of New Orleans East Hospital, New Orleans, won the Robert S. Hudgens Memorial Award for Young Healthcare Executive of the Year for outstanding achievement in the field of healthcare management. The award is given to an exceptional healthcare executive who is younger than 40 years old, is a Fellow of ACHE and holds a CEO or COO position in a healthcare organization. Garner will receive his award on Tuesday, March 17, 2015, at the Malcolm T. MacEachern Memorial Lecture and Luncheon during ACHE's 58th Congress on Healthcare Leadership in Chicago.

About the American College of Healthcare Executives

The American College of Healthcare Executives is an international professional society of more than 40,000 healthcare executives who lead hospitals, healthcare systems and other healthcare organizations. ACHE offers its prestigious FACHE® credential, signifying board certification in healthcare management. ACHE's established network of 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 career development and public policy programs. Through such efforts, ACHE works toward its goal of being the premier professional society for healthcare executives dedicated to improving healthcare delivery. The **Foundation of the American College of Healthcare Executives** was established to further advance healthcare management excellence through education and research. The Foundation of ACHE is known for its educational programs—including the annual Congress on Healthcare Leadership, which draws more than 4,000 participants—and groundbreaking research. Its publishing division, Health Administration Press, is one of the largest publishers of books and journals on

health services management including textbooks for college and university courses. For more information, visit ache.org.

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