

ACHE | ARKANSAS COLLEGES OF
HEALTH EDUCATION

PRESIDENT SEARCH PROFILE

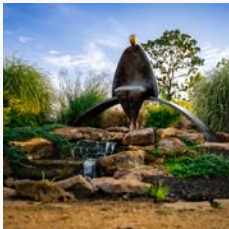
2026-2027
Fort Smith, Arkansas



7000 Chad Colley Blvd | Fort Smith, AR | 479.308.2243

ACHEhealth.edu

Arkansas Colleges of Health Education is an Equal Opportunity Employer





WELCOME TO

ARKANSAS COLLEGES OF HEALTH EDUCATION



Nestled on more than 500 acres in Fort Smith, Arkansas, Arkansas Colleges of Health Education (ACHE) is a mission-driven institution dedicated to educating the next generation of caring, compassionate healthcare professionals and leaders.

Founded to address the growing need for healthcare providers, ACHE has become an innovative academic community where education, research, wellness, and service come together to improve lives. Through nationally recognized academic programs, community partnerships, and a steadfast commitment to excellence, ACHE is preparing graduates to meet the evolving healthcare needs of Arkansas and communities across the nation.

As ACHE looks toward its next chapter, we seek a visionary leader who will build upon a strong foundation, inspire continued innovation, and advance our mission of improving health through education, service, and community engagement.





OUR MISSION

To educate and train a diverse group of highly competent and compassionate healthcare professionals; to create health and research support facilities; and to provide healthy living environments to improve the lives of others.

WHY ACHE

- **Mission-Driven Institution**
- **500+ Acre Campus**
- **Nine Academic Programs** (including developing programs)
- **Village at Heritage Mixed-Use Development**
- **Research Institute Health & Wellness Center**
- **Strong Financial Foundation**
- **Culture of Innovation**
- **Commitment to Rural & Underserved Healthcare**





A BRIEF HISTORY OF ACHE



Arkansas Colleges of Health Education (ACHE) was founded in 2014 with a bold vision—to improve the health of Arkansas and the region by educating highly skilled, compassionate healthcare professionals. Recognizing the growing shortage of healthcare providers, community leaders came together to establish an institution dedicated exclusively to health professions education.

The Arkansas College of Osteopathic Medicine (ARCOM) welcomed its inaugural class in 2017, marking the beginning of ACHE's commitment to preparing physicians to serve rural and underserved communities. Since then, the institution has experienced remarkable growth, expanding its academic offerings to include graduate and doctoral programs in occupational therapy, physical therapy, public health, biomedicine, executive leadership, and medical science, with additional programs under development.

Today, ACHE is a thriving, mission-driven institution that educates students from across the country while remaining deeply committed to serving Arkansas. ACHE has become a destination for innovative healthcare education, interdisciplinary collaboration, research, and community engagement. Guided by its mission to educate future leaders in healthcare, ACHE continues to expand its impact through academic excellence, strategic partnerships, and a steadfast commitment to improving the health and well-being of the communities it serves.





A DISTINCTIVE CAMPUS

Situated on more than 500 acres in Fort Smith, Arkansas, the Arkansas Colleges of Health Education campus reflects the institution's bold vision of integrating healthcare education, wellness, research, and community. Designed as more than a traditional college campus, ACHE continues to grow as a destination where students, faculty, staff, healthcare providers, and the community come together to learn, work, and thrive.

At the heart of the campus is the Village at Heritage, a thoughtfully planned mixed-use development that enhances the student experience while serving the broader community. The Village features modern student housing, restaurants, retail, community gathering spaces, and healthcare services that create a vibrant environment for living and learning.

CAMPUS AMENITIES

Campus amenities continue to expand and include:

- **Student Housing** providing convenient, on-campus living for students.
- **The Celebration Garden & Wellness Park**, a 12-acre outdoor space promoting health, recreation, and community engagement.
- **Mercy Rehabilitation Hospital**, offering advanced inpatient rehabilitation services while strengthening healthcare partnerships.
- **Mercy Clinic**, providing convenient access to primary and specialty healthcare services.
- **Harps Food Store**, bringing additional convenience and amenities to students, employees, and area residents.
- **More than 500 acres with significant room for future growth and development**, ACHE offers exceptional opportunities for academic expansion, healthcare partnerships, research initiatives, community investment, and future developments, including a planned daycare center.

The campus master plan reflects ACHE's long-term commitment to innovation and positions the institution for continued growth while creating an environment unlike any other health professions campus in the region.



— RESEARCH INSTITUTE — HEALTH & WELLNESS CENTER



The ACHE Research Institute Health & Wellness Center (RIHWC) is a cornerstone of the institution's commitment to improving health beyond the classroom. Serving both the ACHE community and residents throughout the River Valley, the Center combines wellness, education, research, and community engagement under one roof.

The facility offers state-of-the-art fitness and wellness amenities, movement and rehabilitation programs, a teaching kitchen, art galleries, ceramics, dance studio, meeting and event spaces, and educational programming designed to promote lifelong health and well-being.

More than a wellness facility, the RIHWC serves as a hub for interdisciplinary collaboration where healthcare education intersects with research, prevention, and community outreach. Faculty, students, healthcare professionals, and community members work together through innovative programs that encourage healthy lifestyles, support preventive care, and improve quality of life.

The Center exemplifies ACHE's mission-driven philosophy—that advancing health begins long before illness occurs. Through education, wellness, research, and meaningful community partnerships, the Research Institute Health & Wellness Center continues to strengthen the health of the communities ACHE serves while providing unique opportunities for learning, collaboration, and innovation.





OUR ACADEMIC PROGRAMS

Arkansas College of Osteopathic Medicine (ARCOM) - Preparing future physicians through a comprehensive osteopathic medical education with an emphasis on primary care, rural medicine, and serving underserved communities.

Doctor of Physical Therapy (DPT) - Educating movement experts dedicated to improving function, mobility, and quality of life.

Doctor of Occupational Therapy (OTD) - Preparing occupational therapists to empower individuals to participate fully in meaningful daily activities.

Doctor of Executive Leadership (DEL) - Preparing executive leaders to navigate complex organizational challenges through strategic leadership, innovation, and evidence-based decision-making.

Doctor of Medical Science (DMSc) - Advancing the education of physician associates and other healthcare professionals through leadership, clinical practice, and healthcare innovation.

Doctor of Public Health (DrPH) - Preparing public health professionals for advanced leadership roles, equipping them to address complex health challenges, strengthen communities, and lead meaningful improvements in population health.

Master of Public Health (MPH) - Developing public health professionals who address population health through prevention, education, and policy.

Master of Science in Biomedicine (MSB) - Providing advanced biomedical education that prepares students for professional schools and careers in the health sciences.

OUR DEVELOPING PROGRAM

ACHE continues to expand its academic portfolio to meet emerging workforce needs. A **School of Physician Associate (PA) Practice** is currently in development and will further strengthen the institution's commitment to preparing highly skilled healthcare providers.

- **8 Academic Programs**
- **1000 Students**
- **300+ Employees**
- **Mission-Driven Education**
- **Preparing Healthcare Professionals and Leaders**



OUR COMMUNITY CONNECTIONS



Community engagement is woven into the fabric of Arkansas Colleges of Health Education. From its founding, ACHE has embraced a mission of improving the health and well-being of the region through education, service, collaboration, and partnership.

Students, faculty, and staff are actively engaged throughout the River Valley and beyond, partnering with healthcare systems, schools, nonprofit organizations, civic groups, and government agencies to address community needs and expand access to healthcare services and education. These relationships provide meaningful service opportunities for students while strengthening the health of the communities we serve.

ACHE enjoys strong partnerships with regional healthcare providers, including Mercy and Baptist Health-Fort Smith, along with numerous clinical affiliates that provide exceptional learning experiences for students and help strengthen the healthcare workforce across Arkansas and neighboring states.

Beyond healthcare, ACHE is an active community partner—supporting local schools, nonprofit organizations, workforce initiatives, civic events, and economic development efforts. Faculty and staff regularly serve on community boards, volunteer their expertise, provide educational programs, and participate in initiatives that enhance the quality of life throughout the region.

As a mission-driven institution, ACHE believes its responsibility extends far beyond the classroom. Through collaboration, service, and leadership, the institution continues to build meaningful partnerships that improve lives, strengthen communities, and prepare graduates who are committed to serving others.





FORT SMITH ARKANSAS

• A LOOK INTO THE RIVER VALLEY •

20%

Cost of living is 20% less than the national average.

FOOD

The city's cultural diversity is reflected in its wide variety of authentic dining experiences.

ART

Immerse yourself in art throughout the city and explore our regional art museum!

ATTEND

Festivals throughout the year that bring live music to the outdoor amphitheater on the Arkansas River

ENJOY

Arkansas' oldest symphony orchestra featuring renowned guest artists

EXPLORE

Fort Smith's rich western heritage at local attractions & museums

CELEBRATE

Murals painted by world-renowned artists located throughout the city

EXPERIENCE FORT SMITH

FortSmith.org • FortSmithAR.gov • mainstreetfs.org





LEADING ACHE FORWARD

A Mission Driven by Purpose and Impact: As President of Arkansas Colleges of Health Education (ACHE), you will step into a role where your leadership directly transforms regional and national healthcare. ACHE offers the rare opportunity to guide an institution with a single-minded commitment: educating compassionate, highly competent healthcare professionals to elevate rural and underserved communities across Arkansas and beyond. Leading programs across Osteopathic Medicine, Physical Therapy, Occupational Therapy, Biomedicine, Public Health, Physician Associate, and Healthcare Leadership, you will helm a campus built to solve real-world health disparities and improve lives.

A Solid Foundation of Financial Sustainability: You will join ACHE at a time of financial strength, growth, and opportunity. Through responsible fiscal management, sustained donor support, and continued investment in the institution, ACHE is well positioned for its next chapter.

The next president will build on this strong foundation, first and foremost, while guiding continued operational growth and building existing programs to be excellent, as evidenced by strong student outcomes. The opportunity to advance future priorities, including developing new academic programs, expanding facilities, and making strategic investments that support ACHE's mission and long-term success, will follow.

Operational Effectiveness and Efficiencies: ACHE has built a culture that values innovation, collaboration, and the ability to move ideas forward. As a relatively new institution, the new president will have the opportunity to adjust the organizational structure to maximize collaboration, improve operational effectiveness, and streamline decision-making.

The next president will have the opportunity to build on this foundation, supported by initiatives such as a comprehensive space utilization study and continued efforts to strengthen administrative operations. This structure provides flexibility to align resources with institutional priorities and support the people, programs, and initiatives that advance ACHE's mission.



A Commitment to Academic Excellence: At ACHE, you will lead a distinguished faculty and academic leadership team dedicated to high-caliber clinical experiences and instruction. You will have the platform to assess and grow the quality and success of existing graduate and doctoral programs, and lead engagement with accrediting bodies like the Higher Learning Commission (HLC) and the Commission on Osteopathic College Accreditation (COCA). This is an environment where high academic standards, continuous assessment, and clinical rigor are central to student success and institutional prestige.

A Supportive Community and Culture: You will lead a vibrant, welcoming campus community that deeply values its people. ACHE is committed to cultivating a culture grounded in transparency, trust, and mutual respect. With ongoing institutional cultural assessments, you will have the meaningful opportunity to foster an environment where faculty, staff, and students feel supported, valued, and empowered to do their best work.

A Unifying Vision for the Future: As ACHE continues to grow, the next president will play an important role in shaping a shared vision for the institution's future. With multiple colleges, a variety of academic programs, community health initiatives, and significant investments in research, ACHE has an opportunity to strengthen the connections among these areas and build upon a common institutional identity.

The president will bring these efforts together around ACHE's mission while identifying new opportunities for collaboration, continuous improvement, growth, and impact. With resources that include the 100,000-square-foot Research Center and Research Institute, ACHE is positioned to expand its contributions to health professions education, biomedical research, healthcare innovation, and the health of the communities it serves.





AN EMPOWERED MANDATE TO ADVANCE THE STRATEGIC PLAN

Working in partnership with a committed and collaborative Board of Trustees, the next president will have the opportunity to build on ACHE's strong foundation and guide the institution through its next phase of development. The president will provide leadership in advancing the strategic plan, establishing clear priorities, measuring progress, and ensuring that resources are aligned with the institution's mission and goals.

ACHE is seeking a president who can move strategy into action—bringing people together around shared priorities and translating plans into meaningful progress for the institution, its students, and the communities it serves.

STRONG EXTERNAL SUPPORT & STRATEGIC PARTNERSHIPS

As a visible ambassador for ACHE, the next president will build upon, and where necessary, rebuild, strong relationships with donors, healthcare organizations, community and regional leaders, and elected officials. Longstanding partnerships with organizations in our community reflect the broad support for ACHE's mission and its role in improving health and quality of life in the region. Similarly, as a young institution, the opportunity to begin cultivation of a strong and growing alumni base will be key to positioning ACHE for a strong future.

The president will have the opportunity to strengthen these relationships, develop new partnerships, and expand awareness of ACHE and its impact. With strong community support and a growing network of partners, ACHE is well positioned to extend its reach and further establish its presence regionally and nationally.



ACHE SEEKS AN ACCOMPLISHED, VISIONARY, & MISSION-DRIVEN LEADER TO SERVE AS ITS NEXT PRESIDENT

The Arkansas Colleges of Health Education seeks an accomplished, visionary, and mission-driven leader to serve as its next President. Reporting to the Board of Trustees, the President serves as the institution's chief executive and is responsible for advancing ACHE's mission, strengthening its academic enterprise, stewarding its resources, and positioning the institution for continued distinction and sustainable growth.

The next President will join ACHE at an important point in its evolution and will have the opportunity to build upon the institution's accomplishments while shaping its future. Working in partnership with the Board of Trustees, senior leadership, academic leaders, faculty, staff, students, and external stakeholders, the President will champion academic excellence, organizational effectiveness, innovation, and meaningful engagement with the communities ACHE serves.

The successful candidate will bring substantial senior-level leadership experience, a distinguished record of professional accomplishment, and an advanced degree, preferably in education, law, medicine, a health-related discipline, or another field relevant to the leadership of a complex higher education institution and, preferably, coincident with the health professions focus of ACHE. Experience in higher education administration and teaching is highly valued, as is senior-level leadership experience within a multi-program college or university and demonstrated knowledge of accreditation, continuous quality improvement of existing programs, and, ultimately, the development of new academic programs.

A MISSION-DRIVEN VISIONARY

ACHE's next President will be a compelling champion of the institution's mission and will possess the vision and leadership presence necessary to inspire others around a shared sense of purpose and possibility. The President will understand the distinctive role ACHE plays in health professions education and will ensure that the institution's strategic priorities, academic programs, partnerships, and investments remain closely aligned with its mission.

The President will honor ACHE's history and accomplishments while looking confidently toward its future. With an ability to anticipate emerging opportunities and challenges, the President will articulate a clear vision for continued institutional advancement and translate that vision into meaningful and achievable priorities. This leader will inspire confidence in ACHE's future and create a shared commitment to excellence among the institution's many constituencies.

AN EMPOWERING EXECUTIVE

The next President will be an engaged and empowering executive who recognizes that an institution's greatest strength resides in its people. The President will attract, develop, and retain exceptional leaders and will build a high-performing senior leadership team characterized by trust, accountability, collaboration, and a shared commitment to ACHE's mission.

Rather than concentrating decision-making at the executive level, the President will establish clear expectations, appropriately delegate authority, and empower leaders to exercise sound judgment within their areas of responsibility. The President will cultivate an organizational culture in which faculty and staff feel valued, shared governance is respected, leaders are accountable for results, and collaboration across colleges, programs, and administrative areas is encouraged.

Visible and accessible throughout the institution, the President will listen thoughtfully, communicate openly, and engage meaningfully with members of the ACHE community.

AN ACCOMPLISHED ADMINISTRATOR

The President will bring the breadth of executive and administrative experience necessary to lead an increasingly complex institution of higher education. The successful candidate will demonstrate a record of achievement in senior leadership and the capacity to oversee multiple academic and administrative functions while maintaining focus on institutional priorities including, and especially, student success.

A strong understanding of higher education administration, academic operations, organizational structure, and institutional policy will be essential. Particularly valuable will be experience within a multi-program college or university and familiarity with the distinctive regulatory and accreditation environment associated with graduate and professional health education as well as the opportunity presented by on-line program development.

The President will understand that academic excellence requires both outstanding people and effective systems. This leader will support the recruitment and retention of highly qualified faculty and administrators, promote rigorous academic standards, and ensure that ACHE and its programs maintain compliance with applicable accreditation requirements, academic standards, and federal, state, and local requirements.

A STRATEGIC THINKER & ANALYTICAL DECISION-MAKER

ACHE's next President will combine vision with disciplined execution. The President will possess the intellectual curiosity and analytical ability to understand complex issues, evaluate competing priorities, assess institutional risks and opportunities, and make well-informed decisions in the best long-term interests of ACHE. The next President will understand the importance of strong and candid conversation with the governing board and will actively seek input from the board, when appropriate, on issues critical to governance and to developing a strong and vital future for ACHE.

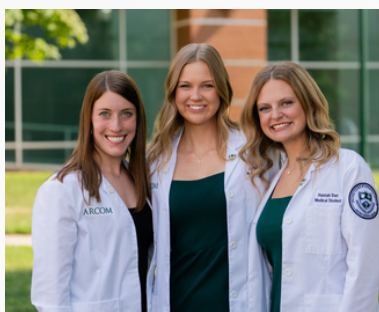
The President will approach significant decisions thoughtfully and strategically, seeking appropriate perspectives while remaining able to act decisively when necessary. This leader will distinguish between matters requiring presidential involvement, board involvement, and those best entrusted to other members of the leadership team.

An accomplished problem-solver and negotiator, the President will bring sound judgment to matters ranging from organizational structure and academic programming to institutional policy, resource allocation, partnerships, and long-range planning. Decisions will be guided by ACHE's mission, reliable information, careful analysis, and consideration of both immediate and long-term institutional implications.

A SKILLED COMMUNICATOR

The President will be an exceptional communicator whose authenticity, professionalism, and ability to listen foster trust across a broad and diverse range of constituencies. The President will communicate complex matters clearly and effectively and will be equally comfortable engaging one-on-one with members of the ACHE community, collaborating with the Board of Trustees, addressing large audiences, or representing ACHE externally.

As ACHE's chief ambassador, the President will communicate the institution's mission and aspirations in a manner that generates enthusiasm and strengthens relationships with students, faculty, staff, alumni, donors, healthcare leaders, educational partners, government officials, and the broader community.



FINANCIALLY COMPETENT

The President will be a disciplined and responsible steward of ACHE's financial, human, and physical resources. Working with the institution's financial leadership and the Board of Trustees, the President will oversee the development of annual budgets and recommend multi-year financial goals and strategies that support ACHE's long-term strength and sustainability.

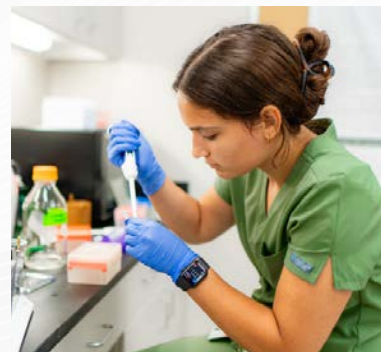
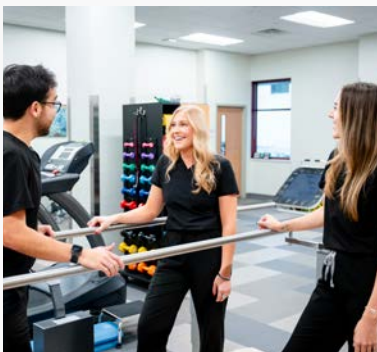
The President will understand the relationship between mission, strategy, and financial decision-making and will ensure that institutional resources are aligned with ACHE's highest priorities. This leader will balance responsible fiscal management with strategic investment, recognizing when resources should be preserved and when thoughtful investment can advance academic quality, institutional capacity, innovation, and growth.

AN INNOVATIVE THINKER

ACHE seeks a President who is intellectually curious, forward-looking, and willing to thoughtfully challenge conventional approaches. The President will foster a culture in which innovation and continuous improvement are encouraged while ensuring that any new initiatives are consistent with ACHE's mission, academic standards, resources, and strategic priorities.

The President will remain attentive to developments in higher education, healthcare, technology, and health professions education and will consider how emerging opportunities may enhance ACHE's programs and impact. This individual will encourage the thoughtful development of new educational programs, partnerships, technologies, and approaches to teaching and learning.

The President will assess new opportunities through the lenses of mission alignment, academic quality, demonstrated need, financial sustainability, accreditation requirements, and long-term institutional value.



AN EFFECTIVE FUNDRAISER

The next President will embrace advancement and philanthropy as essential presidential responsibilities and will serve as a compelling advocate for ACHE's mission and aspirations. The successful candidate will bring a demonstrated ability to generate support for educational, charitable, or mission-driven organizations and will enjoy building authentic, long-term relationships with individuals and organizations who share ACHE's commitment to education, healthcare, and community service. The opportunity to envision how alumni of the recent past and anticipated future will connect with ACHE will be welcomed and appropriate as ACHE moves beyond the early stages of its history.

Working closely with institutional advancement leadership, the President will cultivate relationships with donors, foundations, community leaders, healthcare organizations, businesses, and other potential partners. The President will be able to articulate a compelling case for support, connect philanthropic opportunities to institutional priorities, and demonstrate the meaningful impact of investment in ACHE, its students, and its programs.

Beyond securing financial support, the President will view advancement as an opportunity to expand ACHE's network of advocates, partners, and champions.

A TRUSTED PARTNER TO THE BOARD OF TRUSTEES

A strong and constructive relationship between the President and the Board of Trustees will be essential to ACHE's continued success. The next President will understand the distinction between governance and management and will foster a relationship with the Board characterized by trust, transparency, candor, mutual respect, and shared commitment to the institution.

Above all, the President will earn and sustain the Board's confidence through integrity, sound judgment, discretion, transparency, and consistent follow-through.

A COMMUNITY LEADER

The President will serve as one of ACHE's most visible representatives and will embrace the opportunity to be an active and influential presence in the communities the institution serves. This individual will understand that ACHE's success is closely connected to the strength of its relationships with healthcare organizations, educational institutions, government and civic leaders, community organizations, and other external partners.

The President will cultivate strategic partnerships that advance ACHE's mission, strengthen educational opportunities, and support the healthcare needs of the region. The President will actively represent ACHE in appropriate local, state, and national organizations and will establish relationships that enhance the institution's visibility, reputation, and influence, and will ensure that ACHE continues to be recognized as a valued educational and community partner.

ENQUIRIES AND APPLICATIONS

AGB Search is partnering with ACHE in its search for the institution's next President. To ensure full consideration, applications should be received by **Wednesday, December 30th**, and include the following:

- A letter of interest addressing the strategic objectives and qualifications identified in the profile;
- A current curriculum vitae; and
- The contact information (email and phone) for five professional references, including their relationship to the candidate. (References will be contacted at a later date in the search process and only with the permission of the candidate.)

Application materials should be submitted through the AGB Search portal system here: <https://bit.ly/4yS6561>

Please direct nominations, expressions of interest or any questions regarding the application process to: ACHE-President@agbsearch.com or directly to the search consultants:

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LEARN MORE HERE



ACHE provides an educational and working environment that ensures equal opportunity for all students, faculty, administrators, and staff in recruitment, admissions, hiring, promotion, and employment retention. In accordance with federal and state law, ACHE prohibits unlawful discrimination based on any protected class, including, but not limited to, race, ethnicity, color, sex, sexual orientation, gender, gender identity, religion, creed, national origin, age, non-disqualifying disability, military and veteran's status and any other characteristic protected under applicable ACHE policy, state or federal law/executive orders, regulations, and/or local ordinances.

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