MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT

Fellow MHA Students,

I hope you are all doing well as we approach the mid-point of the spring semester. I would like to thank everyone that came out to the Pacers game a few weeks ago. There was great attendance and I think everyone had a fun time. We are hoping to get to an Indianapolis Indians’ game later in the semester when the weather gets nicer so stay tuned for that.

For those of you receiving the newsletter on March 1st I hope you can attend our educational event later today. Spencer Grover is the Vice President of Government Relations for the Indiana Health and Hospital Presentation and should provide an interesting view of healthcare in Indiana. Please see the events section for more information.

The American College of Healthcare Executives Annual conference is coming up in 3 weeks and I wanted to wish everyone well that is attending the conference. Be sure to represent IU well!

As usual, we are very interested in hearing from you as far as educational events and other event opportunities are concerned. If you know of any healthcare leaders that you think would make a great guest presenter please feel free to let any MHASA officer know!

In closing, good luck on your mid-terms and projects (I know the second year students are quite busy with their Capstone projects). The semester is flying by and the summer will be here before we know it!

Regards,

Dave Hyatt
President, MHASA

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MHA Alumini Profile: Dennis Dawes, IU MHA ’74

Dennis Dawes is a 1974 graduate of the Indiana University MHA program, and is currently the President and CEO of Hendricks Regional Hospital in Danville, Indiana. Mr. Dawes is also a fellow in the American College of Healthcare Executives.

1. What is your education/work background?

I attended Taylor University in Upland, IN for my undergraduate work and graduated in 1968 with a BA degree in Religion. I was in the ministry with Inter-Varsity Christian Fellowship following graduation from Taylor.

I left IVCF and went to work for the Indiana State Department of Health in the Health Education Division where I worked with an organization called Indiana Health Careers. I traveled the state and spoke in schools about health occupations, training, colleges, etc. You might say I educated myself on the role of hospital administration because it was in 1971 that I looked at graduate schools for health administration and was accepted into the 1972 MHA class at the IU Medical School.

2. Was it your career goal to become a hospital CEO?

My career goal was to enter hospital administration as opposed to some other health administration field. I began working part time at Hendricks County Hospital…

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...(Hendricks Regional Health now) in the summer of 1972 and worked there through my graduate school classes from 1972 to 1974. In the summer of 1974 when I finished graduate school the CEO of Hendricks County Hospital (Harry Haver) left and the position was open. I applied along with many other candidates. In October of 1974 the Board of Trustees of Hendricks County Hospital hired me as CEO. I was 28 years old at the time. I have been at Hendricks Regional Health as President/CEO since. When I began at Hendricks the hospital was located in Danville and we had about 200 employees. We now have the main campus in Danville with four off site campus locations and 1600 employees. Hendricks Regional Health is a full service acute care general hospital.

3. How did the IU MHA program help prepare you for your current role as CEO of Hendricks Regional Hospital?

The MHA program prepared me for my role in that it allowed me the opportunity to get my foot in the door. With only a couple of years of part time experience at Hendricks when I became CEO I am not sure any program could have prepared me for what I had taken on. My relationships with other CEO's through the graduate program was great preparation in that I had people I could call and talk to about every day problems. They never hesitated to talk with me. I would also say that my fellow classmates (Ken Stella was one) were a great resource for me as well. The classes and lectures through graduate school certainly helped prepare me from the standpoint of being able to think critically about something and analyze things carefully.

4. What is your fondest memory of your time in the IU MHA program?

Some of my good memories about graduate school were the study groups that we had. We would get together and go over material, ask each other questions and compare notes. The other fond memories were the guest lecturers (Allen Hicks) who were current CEO’s and they would come in and lecture/talk with us about their experiences. Those were exceptional classes or seminars.

6. What advice do you have for current students?

My advice to students would be to learn all that you can about your area of interest while you are still a student. Take elective classes in the area you are most interested in. Volunteer if you can at a local hospital or health care facility if you lack experience. Do not be afraid to make mistakes because you will learn from those mistakes. You will never stop learning or you should never stop learning. The health care market place today is far different than it was in 1974. The market is very competitive and so you need to take advantage of every opportunity to build your resume of experience. I have always believed that keeping your "nose to the grindstone" will bring results. I would also say that health care administration is a service profession. It is a business but it is a service business and you are helping others to find better ways to perform their job. Patient safety today is as critical as it always has been but it has taken a much higher public profile. Balancing cost and quality is a difficult task today in health care administration.