May 14, 2020

Dear Colleagues,

I am writing to announce that I have accepted the nomination to run for President of the American Society for Health Care Engineering (ASHE).

Throughout my career, my passion has been to improve the quality of the healthcare industry. As President, I will be committed to working for you to improve education, communication, networking, and better support of our healthcare staff, designers, builders, and vendors.

Thirty years ago, I joined the healthcare profession after working in the construction industry. Today, I am proud to serve as a division director with CommonSpirit Health, one of the most diverse non-profit healthcare organizations in the country. In this role, I oversee numerous healthcare facilities across the Midwest.

In addition, I have served as President for four different ASHE chapters, on the Healthcare Executive Leadership Council (HELC), and I am a current member of the ASHE Board. These experiences have given me the opportunity to witness and understand the unique challenges facing many of our members.

I believe one of our most pressing issues today is recruiting and retaining talent. As the baby boomers retire, we do not have enough healthcare professionals entering the workforce to offset the loss of talent and skills necessary to lead our teams. We must engage more universities and technical schools to train healthcare facility professionals. If elected President, I will lead ASHE in developing more collaborations with researchers and academic leaders to establish additional healthcare-related materials for our young professionals and those looking to enter the profession.

Increased attention also needs to be given to retaining our talent and prioritizing continuing education. Unfortunately, lack of financial resources has made it difficult for members to expand their knowledge and attend conferences. As a result, it is increasingly hard for our members to stay up to date with changing codes and standards. I will work with ASHE to provide more opportunities for online courses, workshops, and webinars.
Communication has never been more important than it is right now as we weather the uncertainties and unknowns caused by the COVID-19 pandemic. ASHE must open the dialogue between chapters, healthcare executives, and other healthcare organizations to deliver reliable and timely information to our members.

ASHE’s strategic direction for the next five years will take us to the next level by providing platforms for successful collaboration and networking. To support the success of these efforts, I will strive to engage the American College of Healthcare Executives (ACHE) and other groups to ensure alignment of vision and goals.

While we are still learning how to handle and adjust to the many unknowns of COVID-19, we can share our knowledge and lessons learned with each other, in turn strengthening the entire industry. It is imperative that we work together to be successful during this unprecedented time and to meet our future challenges.

I have worked with ASHE throughout my healthcare career and I admire the many talented professionals within our membership. I am confident that with our continued and focused efforts, our members will be seen by healthcare leaders as key members of their teams. We will enhance our networking tools and skills and share our collective wealth of knowledge.

As the next President of ASHE, I will commit to tirelessly leading us toward achieving our shared goals as an organization. I know we can accomplish great things together!

I am humbly asking for your vote for ASHE President!

Thank you and God bless,

Skanda

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