ANOTHER NATIONAL INAUGURAL AWARD FOR XAVIER MHSA

On Monday, December 19, 2016, Xavier MHSA received a special Christmas present. It was special for several reasons, but it was also a secret gift because we weren't allowed to tell anyone until now. Yesterday, Monday, January 30, 2017, the news is now public and was released nationally by MODERN HEALTHCARE and CAHME communications (Commission on the Accreditation of Health Management Education).

Here's the news: **Xavier MHSA has been selected as the inaugural winner of the CAHME/ Canon Solutions America Award for Sustainability in Healthcare Management Education and Practice.** This means that Xavier MHSA is the top graduate program for advancing overall sustainability in healthcare management education.

This award recognizes excellence in graduate healthcare management education within the CAHME accredited programs across the country. The award is twofold: 1) national recognition for the program and 2) grant funding toward faculty research to further sustainability in healthcare. Recall that last year Xavier MHSA was the inaugural winner of the CAHME/Ascension Award for Excellence in Healthcare Leadership Development, so our program has the unprecedented distinction of winning inaugural CAHME awards two years in a row.

The concept of sustainability is more important in healthcare organizations today. A prerequisite for the award was the university’s commitment to sustainability, and that is evident by Xavier University signing the “American College and University Presidents’ Climate Commitment” in 2008 and developing a Climate Action Plan. Canon Solutions America defines sustainability as encompassing “environmental, fiscal, social, and technological initiatives”, which our MHSA program integrates very well.

“Environmental” comes through a five-week module in HESA 603 (PD 3) about healthcare facilities, including site visits led by two healthcare architects. “Fiscal” comes through several MHSA finance courses. “Social” comes through the Philanthropy projects emphasizing sustainability in not-for-profit organizations’ leadership structure, strategy, and viability. “Technological” comes through two IT courses and change management provided in HESA 523 Quality Improvement and HESA 603 (PD 3). Integration comes not only through the HESA 599 Capstone course but also through our program courses as a whole.

Xavier MHSA collaborated as an entire department—faculty, staff, executives-in-residence—to develop our nomination document. In particular, faculty members **Dr. Karen Kent, Mr. Tom Ruthemeyer**, and **Dr. Lin Guo** as well as executive-in-residence **Joyce Huber** worked with me to write our nomination document that tells the story about how our program prepares MHSA students to ultimately lead sustainable healthcare organizations. I also want to acknowledge several program alumni—executive-in-residence **Tom Murray ’76M**, **Matt Dressler ’15M**, and **Kelley Finucane ’15M** as well as several current students—**Nikki King ’17M, Kelly Kleier ’18M, and Shan Qureshi ’18M**—for providing heartfelt letters of support.

The award will be presented during the CAHME Awards Luncheon in conjunction with the ACHE Congress on Administration on Sunday, March 26, 2017 in Chicago. Alumni, students, and faculty will receive luncheon invitations by separate email.

Congratulations to our Xavier MHSA program for this well-deserved recognition, congratulations to Xavier University for continuing to provide such an excellent MHSA program since 1958, and congratulations to our students for selecting the opportunity to learn sustainability from our faculty, staff, preceptors, and alumni.

**Men and Women for Others: Thinkers, Inspirers, and Leaders in Health Services Administration**

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