Modern Healthcare Ranks CSULB No. 12 Among Top Graduate Schools for Physician Executives

Modern Healthcare, the weekly magazine for hospitals and healthcare industry executives, recently ranked California State University, Long Beach, No. 12 overall on its list of top graduate schools for physician-executives and No. 2 based on tuition costs.

The rankings were based on a list of institutions awarding master degrees in healthcare management, business administration or similar programs in non-traditional formats, such as online or weekend courses. Information for the rankings was collected from the 2005-06 academic year.

“We are extremely pleased with this ranking,” said Connie Evashwick, a professor in the Health Care Administration at CSULB. “From our perspective, it’s a very prestigious list, and to be among this group says a lot about our very young executive management program.”

Topping the list was the University of North Carolina, which has a 37-year-old program. Programs were ranked on five factors – length of time to complete (the shorter the program the higher the rank); cost of tuition (the lower the tuition the higher the rank); number of days students must spend on campus (the fewer the days, the higher the rank); age of each program (the older the program, the higher the rank); and number of total graduates. The five rankings were totaled with the lowest score getting the highest rank.

CSULB’s ranking pertains to its accelerated master of science in health administration, which takes 24 months to complete with a tuition cost of $18,000. Students take one online and one Saturday course every 10 weeks to complete the degree. The program, which began in Fall 2004, requires students to be on campus 41 days. Its first cohort of 25 students graduated May 24, 2006.

“The accelerated program serves healthcare executives of all disciplines, including physicians. It’s a two-year, hybrid program that combines online instruction with face-to-face Saturday classes,” said program director Dr. Tony Sinay. “Our faculty for this program is comprised of full time CSULB academics and industry executives.”

Graduate Program Re-Accredited

During academic year 2005-06, The Commission on Accreditation of Healthcare Management Education (CAHME) conducted an extensive review of the Health Care Administration graduate program, which includes the traditional MS degree in health care administration and the accelerated master’s degree program.

The Program completed a detailed and voluminous self-study document and also hosted a site visit from the CAHME program review team of academics and practitioners.

The site review team interviewed University and College program administrators, HCA faculty, students and Advisory Board members. The end result was a decision by the Commission to renew the HCA Program’s accreditation for four years.
First Cohort Graduates from Accelerated Master’s Degree Program

The entire cohort of 25 students who launched the AP program in fall 2004 completed their coursework in the summer of 2006. Congratulations to these academic pioneers!

Special congratulations to Mary Sue Pierce, who began a new job with Kaiser Permanente’s Health Connect Project shortly before graduation, and to Myeisha Jacobs, who was recently promoted to Assistant Administrator at City of Angles Medical Center.

The second cohort began their studies in September 2005, and the third cohort, the largest yet with 29 students, started in September 2007. The Accelerated Master’s degree program, designed for working professionals, is a fast track program that allows students to complete the degree in two years. But it’s intense—students take one online course and one Saturday course each ten-week quarter, with a short break of 2-3 weeks between quarters.

CSULB Team Wins 2006 Health Administration College Bowl

CSULB’s Health Care Administration (HCA) team won the 2006 College Bowl contest in a three round contest held Friday, April 21 at UCLA for master’s students in health administration. Champion team members are HCA graduate students Tim Ludtke, Yulian Danusastro, Matt Litton and Joey Hobbe.

Health Care Executives of Southern California (HCE) sponsors this annual academic contest in which teams of graduate students answer questions on all aspects of health care management in a rapid-fire format based upon the 1960s game show. HCE is an educational and professional development association of leaders from all types of healthcare organizations throughout the greater southern California region (www.hcesocal.org).

Faculty coach Connie Evashwick, Sc.D. noted that Melissa Martell Rojas, Lynn Willis and Kengo Nakata, fellow students in the Integrative Seminar course, contributed to the team’s victory by preparing questions and participating in practice drills. The students will share a cash prize of $1500.00.

In March, Lynn Willis represented CSULB and took fourth place in another inter-university competition sponsored by HCE, the Gamble Scholarship Award. Willis presented information about an order entry system she devised for UCI Medical Center.

HCA Program Director Dr. Tony Sinay noted, “This is the third time that CSULB has won the College Bowl in the past eight years. This victory, the Gamble Award showing, and our recent re-accreditation by the Commission on Health Management Education, show that CSULB’s Health Care Administration Program and its students are highly competitive with other graduate health administration programs in Southern California.”
Kevin Malotte Selected as New Director, Center for Health Care Innovation

Dr. C. Kevin Malotte is the newly appointed Archstone Endowed Chair and Director of the Center for Health Care Innovation. He was previously Professor of Health Science and Director of the Community Health and Social Epidemiology (CHASE) Programs at CSULB. Much of his career has been devoted to the development, implementation, and rigorous evaluation of theory-based behavioral interventions in a number of health-related areas. These areas include substance abuse prevention, adherence to medical treatments, provision and uptake of screening for sexually transmitted infections (STDs), and a number of risk-reduction interventions for HIV and other STDs.

Dr. Malotte has over 25 years of experience designing and evaluating health behavior change interventions in clinical, community, and school settings, and has co-authored over 50 peer-reviewed publications that have appeared in journals such as the Journal of the American Medical Association, American Journal of Public Health, Journal of Preventive Medicine, and Sexually Transmitted Diseases. He has been or is currently an investigator on several studies funded by the Centers for Disease Control (CDC) and the National Institutes of Health. He was an investigator on the CDC-funded Project RESPECT, which tested different HIV prevention counseling interventions in a sexually transmitted disease (STD) clinic setting, and the Long Beach principal investigator for RESPECT-2, a follow-up study of counseling in association with rapid HIV testing. He was also principal investigator for the Long Beach site of the Gonorrhea Community Action Project (GCAP), a study designed to reduce gonorrhea transmission among adolescents. He is currently the principal investigator on two CDC-funded studies, one on preventing STDs, and one working with volunteer community health leaders designed to examine factors that keep these volunteers productive and satisfied with their roles.

Dr. Malotte holds a BA in psychology from Chapman College, an MA in social psychology from Claremont Graduate School, and MPH and DrPH degrees from the UCLA School of Public Health.

The Center for Health Care Innovation addresses issues of the health care system of the future through projects in research, education, demonstration and information dissemination. CHCI emphasizes collaboration among disciplines and between the university and payer, provider and consumer communities. CHCI projects focus on the chronically ill of all ages. Created in 1986 by an endowment from the Archstone Foundation, CHCI is one of 14 units within the College of Health and Human Services at California State University Long Beach (CSULB). CHCI is funded by grants from state and local government and private foundations, with core support from the endowment.

THE ADVISORY BOARD WELCOMES THE FOLLOWING NEW MEMBERS:

Saralea Altman, Senior Health Plan Analyst, California Department of Managed Health Care
Amy Canter (MS, 2005), Health Systems Specialist/Business Manager, VA Medical Center Beach
Judith Connell, DrPH, Consultant, Interlink Medical
Leanne Gassaway (MS, 2006), Government Affairs Director, Cigna Health Plan
Stephen O’Dell, President, Molina Health Plan of California
Health Care Program Faculty News

Departures: The HCA Program is recruiting during Academic Year 2006-07 to replace two full time faculty members. Dr. Connie Evashwick has accepted a position as Dean of the School of Public Health at St. Louis University. Dr. Cynthia Saunders became one of the founding faculty at a new school of public health being established by the University of Maryland. Also, Jerry Dunn, Stan Price and Jim Riedel have retired from the HCA executive faculty ranks.

New Executive Faculty: Recent additions to the HCA Program roster of healthcare industry executives include:
- Courtney Atkins, MHA, Senior Clinical Data Analyst for MemorialCare Health Services, teaches HCA 202 Health Care in America and HCA 320 Operations Management
- Dana Brown, MA, JD, Professor, Health Science Division, Cypress College, teaches HCA 202 Health Care in America.
- Amy Canter, MHA, Health Systems Specialist Business Manager at the Veterans Administration Medical Center in Long Beach, teaches HCA 202 Health Care in America.
- Zeina Hawkinson, Ph.D., Project Manager, Data Integration, United HealthCare, teaches HCA 416 Management Information Systems.
- John Keith, Applications Manager, Information Services, Memorial Care Medical Centers, teaches HCA 416.
- James Lott, PhD (ABD), MBA, Executive VP, Healthcare Policy Development and Communications, Hospital Association of Southern California, teaches HCA 502 Health Care System and Health Policy
- Kathleen O’Guin, MBA, Director of Public Relations & Marketing, St. Mary Medical Center, teaches HCA 202 Health Care in America.
- Giana Piane, PhD, Associate Professor, Health Sciences Department, CSULB, teaches HCA 698 Project.
- Lindsay Rappold, MA and Carol LeSauvage, Human Resources Business Unit Consultants at Nutrilite, co-teach HCA 312 Health Personnel Management.
- Grace Reynolds, PhD, Associate Director, Center for Behavioral Research and Services, CSULB, teaches HCA 465 Analysis and Evaluation and HCA 535 Quantitative Methods in Health Care.
- Beatriz Solis, MPH, PhD (ABD), UCLA, teaches HCA 422I Global Health Issues and HCA 502 Health Care System and Health Policy

Facility Research and Recent Publications


Dr. Janice Frates teaches undergraduate and graduate health policy, marketing and management courses in the Health Care Administration Program at California State University Long Beach. Prior healthcare experience includes:
- Business Analysis Consultant, Kaiser Permanente
- Director (VP) of Planning & Government Relations, Community Health Group
- VP, Healthcare Marketing & Consulting Firm
- Health Economist, San Diego & Imperial Counties Health Systems Agency


Dr. Janice Frates
Professor


Dr. Janice Frates
Professor


Dr. Janice Frates
Professor


Stephen Abad (BS, 2005) was recently promoted to an analyst position with Kaiser Permanente in Orange County.

Shabana (Taylor) Abdulla (BS, 2000) has been admitted to the Master’s program in Nutrition at Loma Linda University. Since graduation, she has been working as an underwriter for Blue Shield Health Plan.

Susan Afrasiabi (MS, 2003) is the Administrative Manager for Mental Health, Veterans Administration Medical Center Long Beach Healthcare Group.

John Allen (MS, 2000) is a Health Systems Specialist providing data systems support at the VA Medical Center Long Beach.

Gisselle Quintana Amini, (BS, 2003) is in her second year of law school at Trinity International University, School of Law. She recently began working for the Institutional Review Boards of Orange County as lead for the Continuing Review department.

Ashley Anderson (BS, 2006) is Public Relations Coordinator for St. Joseph Hospital in Orange.

Monique Rivera Beeson (BS, 2001) is a senior product development manager for United Healthcare (formerly PacifiCare).

Mina Behdad (MS, 2006) is volunteering as a research assistant at the VA Medical Center Long Beach.

Mojan Bina (MS, 1998) completed Whitter Law School’s accelerated program in May 2006 after 2 ½ years of intensive full time study, and passed the California bar exam on her first try.

Eden Bondoc (BS, 2002) has been working at Kaiser Permanente’s Lakewood Medical Center for the last several years, serving as an intern preceptor for several students. He recently was appointed manager of the Sleep Apnea Clinic there.

Crystal Diaz (BS, 2002) completed her MHA at USC and is working as an Administrative Resident for the President of Scripps Health in San Diego.

Robert Do (BS, 1999) is the Executive Director, Catered Manor Nursing Center in Long Beach, and was a featured speaker at the HCA Student Forum end of the year celebration in May 2006.

Joselin Escobar (BS, 2004/LHPP) is studying for her Master’s degree in Public Health at the University of California at Berkeley. She writes, “One of my professors, Jeff Oxendine, is working on research about health care workforce and diversity. I mentioned to him about LHPP and it appears that he wants to start a program like that. Also, another Professor is encouraging me to apply to become part of the admissions committee for the school of Public Health.”

Michael Ford (BS, 2005) manages two diagnostic imaging centers, one in Simi Valley and one in Westlake Village, for InSight Health Corp.

Giana (Nguyen) Foster (BS, 2001) is a marketing manager at Monarch Healthcare, managing the production of marketing materials and working with physicians to grow their practices.

Hazel Sumabat Ganay (BS, 2001) is a Senior Associate at Drake International, focusing on nurse recruitment. Hazel simultaneously pursued her RN degree while at CSULB, and spent several years as a nurse at UCLA Medical Center before becoming a recruiter.

Jody Gordon, (BS, 2006) is working as an administrative assistant for a Director of Nursing at Saddleback Memorial Medical Center in Laguna Hills, and for applying for the EL-MSN program at Cal State Fullerton, for students with a bachelor’s in a field other than nursing. (CSULB has the same program) It is a three year program to attain an RN license plus a bachelor’s and then a master’s in nursing. Jody will spend one additional year to pursue a certification to become a Nurse Anesthetist. She notes: “The average salary for a nurse anesthetist is $130,000! I would highly recommend to any HCA students at CSULB to consider nursing as a supplement to their education. It’s hard to compete with a person who has both an HCA degree and some nursing education.”

Carissa Reyes Green (BS, 2002) is Project Manager for Major Accounts Product Development for United Healthcare (formerly PacifiCare).

Ted Liu (MS, 2003) is an engineer with the VA Medical Center Long Beach.

Angelica Maturino (BS, 2006, LHPP 9) is a Domestic Violence Advocate for the Women’s Transitional Living Center, with plans to pursue a master’s degree in social work in the coming year.

Stacey Nelson (BS, 1999) completed her Master’s in Public Administration at CSULB in 2001 and is working as the Travel Coordinator for the Los Angeles Police Department.

Stephanie Sioson (BS, 2002) is the Human Resources Director at Anaheim General Hospital.

Christabel Trinidad (BS, 2006) is a Special Projects Assistant at the Long Beach Department of Health and Human Services, working primarily on a project to prevent elder abuse.

And special thanks to Victor Hurtado (BS, 2006, LHPP 9) for the design and layout of this newsletter. Victor recently accepted a position as a Physician Liaison - Marketing Associate for Cardiology Specialists of Orange County, a 10 physician cardiology practice in Santa Ana.

Please share news about yourself or fellow alums. Go to the HCA web page: www.csulb.edu/hca and click on “alumni” or email: hca@csulb.edu.
after completing her master's thesis on the Orange County trauma care system, Susan was interested in pursuing a career in hospital administration, but had no hospital operational experience. Dr. Tumelty knew the then-director of the Veterans Administration Medical Center in Long Beach (VAMCLB), John Lee, and recommended Susan to him for a part-time job. Then Mr. Lee wanted to hire Susan for a full-time job, but the HCA graduate program was not fully developed nor accredited, so Dr. Tumelty and Mr. Lee developed an affiliation agreement between CSULB and VAMCLB so that Susan could do a full-time administrative residency in the VA health system. Susan liked working for the VA and did well in her residency program, so has continued working for the VA healthcare system in various locations throughout the nation for the past 26 years, except for a few years' break in service when she worked for the Indian Health Service in Barrow, Alaska. She returned to the VA healthcare system in Anchorage, Alaska to direct a federal sharing program between the VA and tribal entities. Currently, Susan serves as Deputy Network Director for the Northwest Regional VISN (Veterans Integrated Services Network), in Vancouver, Washington, with 8,000 employees serving 200,000 veterans. As more veterans return from the war in Iraq, the VA healthcare system is seeing many more cases of severe head injuries and amputations, and is changing its focus to accommodate these veterans' multiple and complex needs for medical care and rehabilitation. Susan said, "I'll always be grateful to Dr. Tumelty for giving me a start at a great career in Health Care Administration."

The HCA Program at CSULB, and many other departments and programs in the College of Health and Human Services, has long worked closely with our neighbor, the VAMC.

Health care administration is one of the most important and exciting areas of business and public policy. California State University Long Beach is one of just six universities in the nation with both fully accredited graduate and undergraduate health administration programs. The graduate program is accredited by the Commission on Accreditation for Health Management Education (CAHME) and the undergraduate program is a fully certified member of the Association of University Programs in Health Administration (AUPHA). CSULB's The CSULB Health Care Administration Program faculty includes both academic scholars and industry executives from leading Southern California organizations. We also have an active student chapter of the American College of Health Care Executives, and a dynamic and involved advisory board whose members represent many of the leading health care organizations in Southern California.