

VA National Chapter President Received Early Careerist Diversity and Inclusion Award at ACHE Joint Federal Sector Awards Breakfast



During the 2024 ACHE Congress, a few members of the federal sector were recognized with awards for their outstanding achievements in health care. Edward Payton, Associate Director/Chief Operating Officer at Tennessee Valley VA Healthcare System, was one of them. Mr. Payton received the Early Careerist Diversity and Inclusion Award. Candidates for the award met the following criteria:

- Member of ACHE with demonstration of active participation in ACHE activities and assists in achieving its objectives.
- Demonstration of leadership and applies leadership abilities to promote diversity and culture of inclusion in healthcare management.
- Demonstrates engagement to diversity and inclusion activities.
- Contributes to workforce development through activities such as mentoring, partnership, professional advancement, and outreach within his/her community.
- Engagement in activities leading to higher ethical standards, character development, and organizational cultural competence.

A Jackson, Mississippi native, Edward Payton earned a Bachelor of Arts in Business Administration with a management concentration from Morehouse College in 2009 and a Master of Health Science from the University of Mississippi in 2013.

Mr. Payton began his VA career at the VA Maryland Health Care System in Baltimore, Maryland as an administrative fellow in 2013. After completing his fellowship, Mr. Payton served in various roles of increasing responsibility including Senior Department Administrator for the Ambulatory and Emergency Care Clinical Center, Acting Group Practice Manager and Administrative Office for the Mental Health Clinical Center.

In 2018, Mr. Payton transitioned to the Southeast Louisiana Veterans Health Care System as the Deputy Chief, Medical Administration Service. In 2020, Edward was selected as the Chief, Medical Administration Service. During this time, Mr. Payton was appointed to act as the Associate medical Center Director on several occasions.

Currently, Mr. Payton is the Associate Medical Center Director/COO at Tennessee Valley Health Care System (TVHS) in Nashville, TN, where he has served since January 2022. TVHS is a level 1A complexity facility that care for 125,000 Veterans, employing 5200 FTEE with an annual operating budget of \$1.8 billion dollars. Most recently, Mr. Payton had the opportunity to serve in a Senior Executive Service (SES) capacity from September 2023 – January 2024 as the Deputy Executive Medical Center Director at TVHS.

Mr. Payton is the immediate past chair of the National VHA MAS/HAS/Business Office Chiefs group, a graduate of the VISN 5 Leadership Development Institute and a 2018 graduate of the VHA healthcare Leadership Development Program. In addition to his commitment to Veterans, Mr. Payton is passionate about serving the community at large. He is a former board Chair for the Family Health Centers of Baltimore (FHCB), a Federal Qualified Healthcare Center (FQHC) providing care to the underserved in the inner city of Baltimore, MD.

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Mr. Payton is an active member in the American College of Healthcare Executives, and he serves on the VA ACHE Regent Advisory Council. He is also an active member in the National Association of Health Services Executives, where he is the President of the National Veteran Affairs Chapter.