



# Healthcare Programs

# NEWSLETTER

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## Dear Students, Alumni, Faculty, & Friends,

As the 2023-24 academic year comes to a close, we are thrilled to share some exciting updates and highlights from our programs in this latest edition of our newsletter. These milestones are a testament to the dedication and hard work of our students, alumni, faculty, and staff, and I am incredibly proud of all we have achieved together.

In addition, we want to extend a warm welcome to our new students who joined us in the Spring 2024 semester. Your enthusiasm and energy are already making a positive impact on our community, and we are thrilled to have you on board.

We are excited and honored to celebrate all of our 2023-24 graduates! Your hard work, dedication, and perseverance have culminated in this great achievement, and we could not be more proud of all you have accomplished. As you embark on the next chapter of your journey, take confidence in the knowledge, skills, and experiences you gained during your time at Concordia University Irvine.

As we look forward to the year ahead, we have some exciting events and initiatives planned with plenty of opportunities for learning, networking, and growth. I encourage you to take advantage of the resources and support available through our programs. Whether you need academic guidance, career advice, or simply a friendly face to chat with, our faculty and staff are here to help you succeed. Finally, we want to remind everyone that our charity relies on the kindness and support of our community. If you are able to donate your time or resources, please do not hesitate to reach out to us.

Thank you for your continued dedication and commitment to the MHA, MPH, and Undergraduate Healthcare Management programs at Concordia University Irvine. Together, we will continue to achieve great things and make a positive impact.

Blessings,  
Cathi Sinardi, Ed.D. MFT  
Director



# Mentorships in Healthcare:

**What do you see as the primary benefits of mentorship, both for the mentor and the mentee?**

“Mentorship/Mentee relationship-like any relationship is a give & take. As mentors, we provide our experience, thoughts, reflections, from our protégés we learn new challenges and issues. In healthcare, there are so many routes to take from IT, to operations, to marketing, to business development. As mentors, we should be learning just as much from our mentees as they learn from us.”

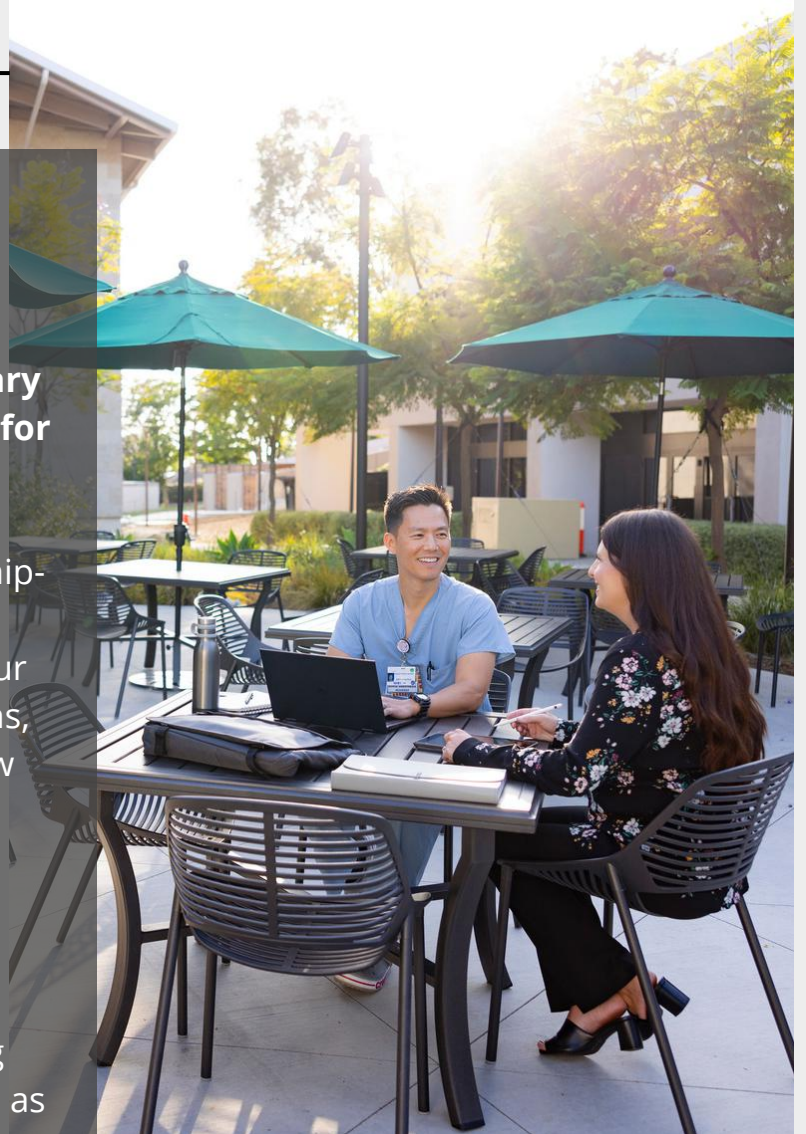
**Rodney Mardirosian, MPH  
Adjunct Professor. CUI  
Senior Manager Business  
Development- UCI Health**

**In your experience, what are the key ingredients to a successful mentor-mentee relationship?**

“Building the relationship and developing trust. Developing a psychologically safe environment: what is said in Vegas stays in Vegas.”

**Dr. Tricia Kassab  
Adjunct Professor, CUI  
ACHE SoCal and San Diego Regent**

**Read the full interviews:**





# Accreditation Highlight

## **CAHME**

Concordia University Irvine's Master of Healthcare Administration (MHA) program earned specialized accreditation from the Commission on Accreditation of Healthcare Management Education (CAHME) in April 2022. CAHME accreditation serves as the gold standard for both students and employers, ensuring that graduates are thoroughly prepared to take on leadership roles in healthcare management. This recognition underscores the quality and effectiveness of accredited programs in equipping students with the necessary skills and knowledge for success in the field.

CAHME is dedicated to advancing the development of future healthcare leaders through continuous improvement initiatives. By establishing measurable, competency-based standards for excellence in healthcare management, CAHME actively supports the growth and enhancement of educational programs. CAHME is the only organization recognized to grant accreditation to individual academic programs offering a professional master's degree in healthcare management education by the Council on Higher Education Accreditation (CHEA).

Programs are initially accredited for a 3-year term. The MHA program at Concordia University Irvine is currently in the cycle for reaccreditation; the self-study report is due at the end of the summer, and the site visit is scheduled for November 2024.

## **CEPH**

Concordia University Irvine's MPH program is seeking specialized accreditation from the Council on Education for Public Health (CEPH). CEPH is an independent agency recognized by the US Department of Education to accredit schools of public health and public health programs. Accreditation by CEPH ensures our program is critically evaluated and consistently meets public health professional standards. Specialized accreditation provides greater service, practice, and research opportunities for our school, faculty, students, and alumni.

For example, many public health organizations and services including the US Public Health Service require employees to be graduates of CEPH-accredited units. Currently, our initial application has been accepted and we are in the process of developing our self-study documentation. Our final self-study document is due November 2024 and our on-site visit is scheduled for December 2024.



# Healthcare Programs Graduates

## **Master of Healthcare Administration**

**Lauren Yee,**  
MHA Fall '23

**Mike Yeh,**  
MHA Fall '23

**Hannah Phair,**  
MHA Spring '24

**Holly Azalde,**  
MHA Spring '24

**Gildardo Villarruel,**  
MHA Spring '24

**Samantha Ramirez,**  
MHA Spring '24

**Jonathan Guerrero,**  
MHA Spring '24

## **Master of Public Health**

**Brianna Villanueva,**  
MPH Spring '24

**Nabeeha Said,**  
MPH Spring '24

**Luis Ayala,**  
MPH Spring '24

## **Healthcare Management Undergrad**

**Axel Aguilar,**  
Spring '24

**Fernando Aguirre,**  
Spring '24

**Janessa Barton,**  
Spring '24

**Camtriss Bui,**  
Spring '24

**Christopher  
Victoria,** Spring '24

**Erika Sanchez,**  
Spring '24

**Congratulations to our Graduates!**



# ACHE Congress 2024 Chicago, IL

## What is ACHE Congress?

The Congress on Healthcare Leadership is ACHE's prestigious annual multi-day event, packed with sessions led by the most recognized healthcare leaders in our industry. Congress offers attendees countless opportunities to innovate, collaborate, grow, and transform by having access to world-class thought leadership, insights, and perspectives from a diverse array of interprofessional leaders on a variety of hot topics and industry trends.

## What is ACHE?

The American College of Healthcare Executives (ACHE) is a professional organization with 49,000 members. Members are healthcare leaders, from seasoned C-suite and clinical leaders to post-graduates and students in their first leadership roles. It is a community of executives committed to leveraging ACHE connections and resources to provide exceptional leadership that generates results. ACHE focuses on the success of healthcare leaders, and it is committed to improving healthcare in communities.

For the first time,  
individuals from  
Concordia Irvine  
presented at  
Congress!



# Presentation: Launching Your Career: Navigating the Post-Graduation Transition With Success

## Team Members:

**Keya Gupta**, MHA (CUI Alum '22)

Administrative Fellow at CalOptima

Adjunct Professor in HCM at CUI

**Lauren Williams**, MHA (CUI Alum '22)

Physician Network Administrative Fellow at Maimonides Health

**Yasmine Ghazvini**, MHA

SSBB, Strategy & Business Development Consultant at MemorialCare

Adjunct Professor in HCM at CUI

## Summary of Presentation:

This engaging and interactive session will discuss the essential skills and knowledge needed to excel in the healthcare industry post-graduation. Presenters will explore the specific challenges faced by recent graduates and early career professionals and equip attendees with practical strategies to overcome them and gain an edge in a competitive professional landscape. This session is specifically designed to provide attendees with invaluable tips and tricks for navigating the critical transition from graduation to the workforce. Key topics will include skills for success, influencing as an early careerist, and alternative career paths. Whether attendees are interested in healthcare management, policy, consulting, or other healthcare-related fields, this session will empower them to make informed decisions and navigate their career path with confidence.



# ACHE of SoCal's College Bowl 2024

## Eligibility:

Graduate and undergraduate students who are currently enrolled in healthcare programs that are part of the ACHE SoCal Higher Education Network are eligible.

## Judging:

Teams will be judged on their analysis of the case, their responsiveness to the prompt, the executive summary, and their presentation skills. Judges will focus on the viability of the strategies and the flow of the presentation. This includes content, organization, and demonstration of logical thinking. In addition, the team must be able to answer questions in a prompt, concise, and accurate manner. Executive summaries will be evaluated on their utility as stand-alone documents that reflect the analyses and resulting recommendations for the organization.



*Congratulations to  
Concordia University  
Irvine's MHA Team on  
winning 2nd place!*



# College Bowl 2024

## Meet the Team:

Holly Azalde, MHA '24  
Jonathan Guerrero, MHA '24  
Amanda Armendariz, MHA Student  
Liubovi Gurgurova, MHA Student

## What was the case topic?

This year's case focused on developing a set of strategies for informing and educating the community about CalAIM initiatives and how they will transform the services that CalOptima Health provides.

-Holly Azalde

## Who was your advisor?

Dr. Sinardi was our case advisor, and Dr. Wozniak also provided helpful feedback. -Holly Azalde

## As someone who previously did the College Bowl, what made you want to join again?

The College Bowl is a great way to culminate the things you gain from all your coursework and really challenge yourself in a new and exciting professional environment.

-Holly Azalde

## What are you hoping to get out of the College Bowl?

This year I am hoping to apply the skillset from all our team members with the education we've gained from CUI's program. Everyone wants to win, but gaining such knowledge from your peers and industry professionals is a priceless experience. I am proud of our team and know that we will represent CUI's high academic and value standards.

-Holly Azalde



# College Bowl 2024

## How would you describe this experience?

This was unlike anything I have ever done before. As an early careerist, it can be hard finding projects and initiatives to take on independently and feel like you're making a difference, so this was an extremely fulfilling experience. Competing in the college bowl gave me the opportunity to think as a healthcare administrator, to find ways to better serve our patients and communities in need, and it pushed me beyond my comfort zone to present in front of mid- to executive-level leadership. -Amanda Armendariz

## What is your greatest take away?

Stepping out of your comfort zone is very important for growth, particularly for networking. All the small classroom experiences really helped elaborate the presentation and present but teamwork is what really made it happen. -Liubovi Gurgurova

## What advice would you give to future teams?

Establishing regular communication with your team is a must! That's what helped our team come together despite our challenges and pull off an amazing presentation. Establishing a supportive and collaborative team is such an important foundation to really take your group to the next level. Also, pay attention to deadlines! They can really sneak up on you. -Amanda Armendariz



**Read more about their experiences and advice for future teams:**





# Upcoming Events & Ways to Stay in Touch!

## Upcoming Events:

**November 2, 2024**

MHA Professional  
Development Day

**December 13, 2024**

Save the Date for our  
upcoming Graduation  
Reception and  
Networking Event!

**December 14, 2024**

Summer & Fall '24  
Graduation

## Stay in Touch:

**CUI Connect**

[Cuiconnect.com](http://Cuiconnect.com)  
Healthcare Connect

**Facebook**

[facebook.com/cuihealthcare](https://facebook.com/cuihealthcare)  
programs  
[facebook.com/concordiairvine](https://facebook.com/concordiairvine)

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