

## Healthcare Executive Forum (HEF) of Western New York

An Independent ACHE Chapter

### In This Issue:

- Interviews with Dr. Willie Underwood & Jessica Bauer Walker
- Classifieds
- Resource Guide
- And More

### Spotlight:

Accessing Equity in WNY Healthcare

– Dr. Willie Underwood III

*“We must understand our barriers...”*

[Read On](#)



### Plus:

A Way Forward for our Communities

– Jessica Bauer Walker

*“Our challenges can become opportunities...”* [Read on](#)



# A Message from our Leader

*Brittney Carothers, MHA*



The Western New York community continues to work toward reducing inequities and disparities that have been exacerbated over the last 14 months. What we must not forget is that these inequities and systemic exclusions existed long before a global pandemic, and will continue to exist, unless we take action!

This quarter we have had the privilege of speaking with local healthcare leaders on what action means to them, in hopes to learn for ourselves, and inspire and educate others. Both the Diversity & Inclusion Committee and Programming Committee are working diligently to maintain the momentum gained from these conversations. We do hope that everyone takes a moment to watch our sit down with Dr. Willie Underwood, and attend our upcoming panel discussion on June 9<sup>th</sup>

I want to thank **Dr. Willie Underwood III, MD, MPH** and our panelists from our upcoming event **Roseanne Berger, MD** and **William Pryor, A.B., Ed.M** for being an integral part of our journey!

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## What is FACHE, Anyway?

The FACHE credential, although fun to say, is a prominent accolade for healthcare leaders. Becoming a Fellow of the American College of Healthcare Executives, signifies the commitment, expertise, and experience in continuing education and professional development. Just as members of the medical staff are board certified, having a FACHE credential indicates a level of achievement and competency within healthcare management and leadership. To learn more visit <https://www.ache.org/fache>

## Call for Volunteers!

Are you interested in getting involved with the Healthcare Executive Forum? Volunteers have the opportunity to collaborate with Board members on upcoming events and chapter strategies, to better serve our members and the WNY community. Contact Phyllis Gunning at [Phyllis.Gunning@gmail.com](mailto:Phyllis.Gunning@gmail.com) for more information.

# An Interview with Dr. Willie Underwood III MD, MPH

*Executive Director, Buffalo Center for Health Equity and Founding Member of the African American Health Equity Task Force*

The following are excerpts from a video interview with Dr. Willie Underwood III, conducted by Healthcare Executive Forum President-Elect Michael Omoniyi Ayanbadejo, MBBS, MPH on May 28, 2021. For the full interview, visit <http://hef.ache.org/interview-with-dr-willie-underwood/>

**Michael:** Dr. Underwood, what is your experience working in healthcare as a minority?

**Dr. Underwood:** Man-o-man...have you got an hour, two hours? It's so interesting. Healthcare, on one hand, it's the greatest experience that you can ever have, because you are able to interact with people, to help them...At the same time, America has a sickness, and that sickness is Racism. The healthcare system is sick as well, from every aspect of it. From the fact that you can look in hospitals and you can see that the majority of black people that work there are in low-paying, low-end jobs, and disrespected. They can find physicians from all over the world, but they can't seem to find black doctors. If you look at every academic center, that's the same scenario that plays itself out.

Buffalo is no different than that. It's not about lack of skills, lack of experience, lack of ability. None of that is the case...When we say it has a disease, let's just be for real, it has a disease! That's why when you look at the outcomes that we see, through conscious and unconscious bias, it exists, and the literature supports that.

**Michael:** Can you please give one or two examples or ways in which we can overcome one or two of the systemic and structural barriers?

**Dr. Underwood:** We can overcome them, but overcoming them first takes an understanding of them. That understanding is beyond us. What I mean by that is that is that oftentimes we try to have conversations.

People say, "Well I didn't do that. I'm not a racist. I'm this and this, I'm not that." I am like, "No one said you are," but we're saying that here are the things that are in place, here are the things that created this problem, so let's use our brains and our ability and wisdom to solve them, to make them go away...





# Working Towards Health as a Human Right

Jessica Bauer Walker, BA, CHW

In the joint pandemics of COVID-19 and systemic racism, health disparities across social determinants of health have been laid bare. As a Community Health Worker (CHW), leader of a nonprofit organization, activist and mother, I have a vision of a world where every individual, family and community is healthy, safe and supported. CHWs- individuals “of and from” the communities we serve, with close and trusting relationships in community- are effective partners in ensuring that programs, services and care are as accessible and equitable as possible.

Programs and services intended to serve those in need should consider the full range of social determinants of health that an individual or family is experiencing. Our CHWs have set up food deliveries for single Moms working full time or who have small children in virtual school at home so that they can get a box of groceries and meals their families. We have ensured that flyers about childcare resources are translated and mailed to families who may have limited English proficiency or lack of access to the internet. We have put on COVID-19 vaccine education sessions to decrease vaccine hesitancy based on the relationships we have with our families, friends and neighbors; and worked with our health departments on culturally responsive strategies for vaccine deployment.



We patch up holes in the safety net and bridge between systems and community as best as we can. But without policy change, our patients, clients and community cannot heal and stay healthy. We spend too much time in crisis management instead of preventing those crises from happening in the first place. Before and during the COVID-19 pandemic and recent racial reckoning, CHWs and our allies have worked for health as a human right...

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# Working Towards Health as a Human Right

*Jessica Bauer Walker, BA, CHW*

We have advocated for universal healthcare, to prevent water shut-offs and housing evictions during the pandemic, to reimagine public safety through restorative justice and mental health services, for a living wage for ourselves and other frontline care-providing workers- who are often women of color. Physicians, nurses, social workers, researchers and others in public health and healthcare have stood with us, and we need more professionals who are willing to actively and openly confront injustice alongside us.

In these unprecedented times, our challenges can become opportunities. Indian activist and author Arundhati Roy has said “the pandemic is a portal...we can walk through it ready to imagine another world, and ready to fight for it.” Together, we can fight to make a healthy, just, equitable Western New York and world possible.

[Read More about the Community Network for Engagement, Connection and Transformation here](#)



**Jessica Bauer Walker, BA, CHW**

*Executive Director, CoNECT (Community Network for Engagement, Connection and Transformation) and the Community Health Worker Network of Buffalo*



**FREE VIRTUAL EVENT -**

**Wednesday, June 9, 1pm – 2:30pm**

**Virtual Panel Discussion -**

**Qualified for 1.5 ACHE Face-to-Face Credits**

## Diversity and Inclusion In Healthcare

Moderator:

**Shari McDonald,**  
MSN, RN

VP, Patient Care Services  
/ Chief Nursing Officer,  
**Mercy Hospital,**  
**Catholic Health**



**Roseanne C. Berger, MD,**  
Sr. Assoc. Dean for  
Graduate Medical  
Education\  
Univ. at Buffalo  
Jacobs School of  
Medicine

- Oversees 68 residency and fellowship programs at Jacobs School
- Co-Founder of Jacob's Educator Excellence Program and Dir. of UB Mini-Med School
- Practicing Family Physician and member of NY State Board of Medicine

**William B. Pryor,**  
A.B., Ed.M,  
Executive Vice  
President / Chief  
Administrative  
Officer

**Catholic Health**



- Manages all human resources, marketing, public relations, and facilities planning for Catholic Health in WNY.
- Member, Bflo Business Leader Task Force
- 30 years HR experience with past 17 as a top health HR exec in NY, OH, MD, DC

This highly experienced, expert panel will discuss ways to solve issues and overcome barriers posed by challenges to diversity and inclusion in WNY healthcare and beyond, from the executive level to the front-lines. As industry leaders and clinicians are adjusting organizational practices to reflect a more accurate demographic representation of patient populations in the community, the panel's discussion will help companies and individuals understand how best to improve diversity and inclusion throughout your organization. You won't want to miss the best practices, life lessons, post-Pandemic learning, and personal anecdotes from some of the most accomplished professionals who are committed to this topic in Western New York.

Healthcare  
Executive  
Forum  
Of Western  
New York



<https://hef.ache.org>

Attendance by Zoom is **FREE** and open to the public, but spaces are limited. Register directly at the American College of Healthcare Executives (ACHE) website at the link below. **(If you are not an ACHE member, you must first create an**

**ache.org account & login name).**

<https://tinyurl.com/rkrtxzm6>

or scan QR Code->



# Do you Know a Hero?

Nominate a **Western New York Front Line Hero!**

The Healthcare Executive Forum's front line hero campaign recognizes those who have gone above and beyond to serve the WNY community. Nominations are accepted on a rolling basis, and can be submitted through our website, or [here](#)

## Our Recent Winners

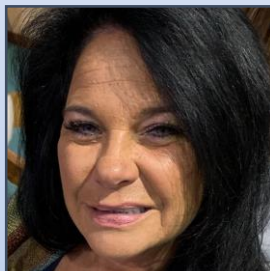
Colleen Jordan



Carol Czuprynski



Lynne Laverdi



Jillian Wasiura



Kime Winde



Jessica Bauer-Walker



Amy Hiam



# Classifieds

**June 8, 2021 at 11:30am** – Buffalo Niagara Partnership is hosting a “Diversity and Inclusion at Work Symposium.” More information can be found [here](#).

**June 9, 2021 through July 7, 2021** – ACHE is holding “Service Line Planning: Developing a Consumer-Based Approach to Providing Quality Care.” Two experienced healthcare executives will address how to evaluate your organization’s service lines by using tools to select areas for future growth such as a SWOT analysis, cultural compatibility assessment and market analysis combined into a weighted decision matrix. More info and registration found [here](#).

**June 10, 2021 at 2pm** – ACHE is hosting a FACHE Credential Free Information Session webinar providing a complete overview of the FACHE process. Learn more about how the FACHE credential distinguishes you as a respected and recognized healthcare leader. Info is [here](#).

**June 16 and 17** – HireWNY Multi-University Alumni Only Career Fair for Employers, Recruiters, and for those individuals looking to change careers, as long as you are an alumnus of one of the area’s top universities. More info [here](#).

- ❑ ACHE is calling for proposals for presentation to the fourteenth annual “Advances in Healthcare Management Research Forum.” This session will take place during ACHE's Congress on Healthcare Leadership, which will be held from March 28–31, 2022. More info on how to submit a proposal can be found [here](#).
- ❑ ACHE Recognition Program – This is an ongoing program recognizing all types of volunteer activities by ACHE members. Some deadlines for submission have passed, but those that wish to submit information to receive points and more may wish to write to [recognitionprogram@ache.org](mailto:recognitionprogram@ache.org). Info on the program can be found [here](#).



# Resource Guide

Erie, Niagara and all Western New York County Health Departments are creating several Covid pop-up vaccination clinics and changing rules daily to make it easier for patients, family members and everyone to get vaccinated.

Lottery tickets, beer, and more might be included. An updated list of popup clinics can be found [here](#), but to find out more from the county health department website where you are at, see:

- [Erie County Department of Health](#)
- [Niagara County Department of Health](#)
- [Genesee/Orleans County Departments of Health](#)
- [Chautauqua County Public Health Dept.](#)
- [Cattaraugus County Department of Health](#)
- [Allegany County Department of Health](#)
- [Wyoming County Department of Health](#)

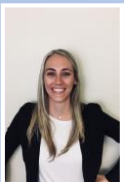
# About Us

*Healthcare Executive Forum, Inc. (HEF) is an independent chapter of the American College of Healthcare Executives (ACHE) in the Western New York Region. The chapter territory includes the following counties in New York State: Allegany, Cattaraugus, Chautauqua, Erie, Niagara, Orleans, and Wyoming.*

## Our Mission

*The mission of the Healthcare Executive Forum, Inc. (HEF) is to advance healthcare management excellence through education and networking services, that meet or exceed the expectations of our members. The Healthcare Executive Forum will uphold and promote the mission and values of ACHE.*

## Chapter Officers



### **President**

Brittney Carothers, MHA



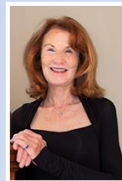
### **President-Elect**

Michael Ayanbadejo, MPH



### **Treasurer**

Roger Leising, AEMT, RRT, MHA



### **Secretary**

Kathleen Curtin, MBA, EdD



### **Regent**

Kurt Calman, FACHE

Email: [info@hef.achechapter.org](mailto:info@hef.achechapter.org)

Website: <http://hef.ache.org/>