

Alicia Smith-Steele, MHA, FACHE

3974 Courtyard Drive | Southaven, MS 38671 | 901-229-2283

August 23, 2019

Dear 2019 NAHSE Nominating Committee,

It is my pleasure to recommend my colleague and friend, Chara Stewart Abrams, as a candidate for the position of National Secretary. I've known her for the past 7 years and can attest to her strength of character and competence in driving change in very challenging environments.

Chara has been an active member of NAHSE since 2012. She was introduced to NAHSE through Renee Frazier upon her move to Memphis where she began serving as the chapter Secretary from 2012 to 2013. After completing her term as Secretary, she was elected as the treasurer in 2014. In this role, Ms. Abrams revamped financial processes and procedures to enhance chapter operations. In 2016, she was elected as President-Elect of the Memphis Chapter where she began building strategic relationships with key stakeholders in the community and among NAHSE friends.

In her first year as the local chapter President, she aligned the Memphis Chapters' Strategic Plan with the National Strategic Plan. This directed focus positioned the chapter to craft a message to interested members that would bridge engagement from the local level to the national level. Here are a number of her accomplishments to date as the NAHSE Memphis President:

- Retention of all previous institutional memberships with an increase of 3 additional institutional memberships.
- Partnership with Blue Cross Blue Shield of Tennessee to provide three \$10,000 statewide scholarships for minority students - increased the number of participating colleges/universities.
- Recipient of the American College of Healthcare Executives (ACHE) Regent's award for Excellence in Diversity in October of 2018
- In 2018, Co-led an inaugural luncheon with NAHSE Nashville at the Tennessee Hospital Association's (THA) annual meeting which discussed health equity's role in the transition to value-based care.
- In 2019, the Memphis chapter is partnering with NAHSE Nashville, THA and ACHE to co-lead a "Better Together" diversity panel breakfast at the THA annual meeting in October featuring several C-Suite healthcare executives across the state. The "Better Together" breakfast originated from the ACHE's Congress "Better Together" Joint Diversity and Inclusion Reception that which was spearheaded by national office of NAHSE.
- Facilitated partnerships to create opportunities for members to influence policy and platforms on all levels of government inclusive of a meet and greet for candidates in the city elections and hosting a Shelby County Mayoral Forum at the National Civil Rights Museum along with the Memphis Chapter of the NAACP and the Black MBA.
- Led a Lunch and Learn initiative supported by the institutional member organizations where she introduced NAHSE to new faces and cultivated more active participation among paid members. This effort resulted in new members and garnered greater support from the Chief Administrative Officer of Regional One Health who paid for 5 additional employee memberships beyond those of the institutional membership package.

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Chara has demonstrated confidence, poise, humility, and compassion as a leader who is committed to the mission of NAHSE and to the future of the organization. Ms. Abrams would bring a quiet strength to the Executive Committee that would be extremely supportive and collaborative as they work towards a common goal. I wholeheartedly support Chara Stewart Abrams' nomination for National Secretary.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Alicia Smith-Steele". The signature is written in black ink and is positioned to the right of the word "Sincerely,".

Alicia Smith-Steele, MHA, FACHE