

ALLiANCE update

January/February 2026 Issue

Connecting education to exceptional patient care

2026 Innovation Award Winner Named

The AIAMC Board of Directors recently announced **JPS Health Network** as the winner of the 2026 AIAMC Innovation Award. They will be recognized with this esteemed honor at our awards dinner in Carlsbad on Friday, April 17th. *SHINE: Students in Healthcare for INdividual Empowerment: A Workforce Pipeline for the Future* was submitted by **Diana Singer, PhD, RN, CCRN, CNE, C-TAGME**, Executive Director, Academic Affairs. Contributing authors included **Tricia Elliott, MD, FAAFP**; **Melissa Acosta, PhD**; **Virginia Chandlee, PhD, RN, PNP**; **Julie Vasquez, MSN, RN**; and **Caroline Diez, EdD, MBA, C-TAGME**.



Dr. Singer stated in her application, "The Students in Healthcare for INdividual Empowerment (SHINE) Program was launched in 2025 by JPS Health Network in response to the urgent need for a robust and diverse healthcare workforce. Designed for high school students, SHINE offers immersive, hands-on paid internships to expose learners to careers in clinical and non-clinical healthcare fields. The program was initially funded through a Texas Workforce Commission grant, serving as a pilot to demonstrate the value of early workforce pipeline development rooted in local communities." She continued with the following results:

- Over 600 students applied for the internship, with 30 top applicants selected from 21 high schools following a robust, holistic application review and interview process that engaged leaders and executives across the network. All 30 initial offers were accepted
 - 100% completed the program and passed national certification exams (unprecedented per NHA) and are now patient care technologists, phlebotomists, and EKG technologists
 - 95% reported increased interest in healthcare careers
- 100% would recommend the program to peers



What makes SHINE particularly exciting is its inherent scalability due to its modular, interdisciplinary structure and proven adaptability within a large, safety-net health system. SHINE offers a blueprint for other institutions to create sustainable, community-anchored pipelines that begin in high school and extend into healthcare careers.

Congratulations, **JPS Health Network**!

John Peter Smith (JPS) Hospital is a public healthcare system for Tarrant County, Texas located in Fort Worth. It serves as a Level 1 Trauma Center and primary teaching hospital for several medical schools. It is the largest provider of mental health services in the region, including psychiatric emergency services, inpatient, and outpatient care.

To learn more about this AIAMC member exemplar, visit

<https://www.jpshealthnet.org/>

The AIAMC Innovation Award is presented on an annual basis to our institutional member who best exemplifies creative and innovative approaches to medical education and research in the following categories:

- The development and/or implementation of innovative medical education programs for residents, physicians and other staff and may include curriculum development and implementation, assessment methodologies, and/or outcomes related to medical education initiatives.
- Innovation significant themes such as provider well-being, quality improvement, population health, health disparities and/or cultural competency initiatives involving residents, physicians and other staff and related outcomes.
- The development and/or application of scientific discoveries. Areas of research may include education, health care improvement, biomedical research and/or translational research.

Inside this issue

NI News.....	2
April Meetings	2
Partner Profiles	3
2026 Partners.....	4

National Initiative News

As reported in the November-December issue of *Alliance Update*, National Initiative X Meeting One was held in mid-October at the Omni Chicago Hotel. Since that meeting, cohort groups have met and reported upon their milestones. Cohort groupings are determined by project content, which includes AI in GME, professional identity formation/feedback, professionalism, and continuation of a prior National Initiative project.

These cohorts will meet in person at NI X Meeting Two, to be held April 17th and 18th at the Omni La Costa Resort and Spa in Carlsbad, California, and in sync with the AIAMC 2026 Annual Meeting. Team leaders will present their storyboards depicting progress made since project launch last fall. These 30+ storyboards will be on display in the main ballroom area for all 2026 Annual Meeting and NI X Meeting Two to see, and National Advisory Council members will participate in providing feedback on the posters and progress made.

We look forward to seeing many National Initiative X participants in Carlsbad and to learning about the great work underway which will optimize the clinical learning environment.



Register Now for April Meetings

[On-line registrations](#) for the AIAMC 2026 Annual Meeting are now being accepted.

Our meeting will be held April 16th – 18th at the beautiful Omni La Costa Resort & Spa in Carlsbad, CA. Our conference theme of *Anchored in Purpose: Leading Through Uncertainty with Compassion and Courage* will be delivered by outstanding, nationally- recognized speakers in an atmosphere of networking and dialogue you won't find at any other national meeting. Key topics will include advocacy, purpose-driven leadership, and resilience in times of disruption. In addition to the five amazing plenary presentations, we have more breakout sessions than ever before with eleven opportunities to learn from your AIAMC colleagues and partners! You won't want to miss the pre-conference sessions as well.

Registration for National Initiative X Meeting Two is also open here: [National Initiative X Meeting Two | AIAMC](#) Meeting Two will be held in conjunction with the AIAMC 2026 Annual Meeting and will take place on Friday, April 17th and Saturday, April 18th.

When registering for these meetings, remember to make your hotel reservation at the Omni La Costa Resort and Spa. You may call 800-THE-OMNI (800-843-6664) or reserve online with this direct link: <https://bookings.omnihotels.com/event/san-diego-la-costa/aiamc-2026-annual-meeting> Our conference rate of \$299/night will be honored through March 16th, and rooms are filling fast!

Please be aware that the AIAMC is contractually obligated to fill our room block at the Omni La Costa Resort & Spa. While it may be tempting to stay at your loyalty brand and earn points, please realize that if we don't fill the block, we will have no choice but to increase registration fees for future meetings - something we do not wish to do. EACH and EVERY reservation matters: starting with yours.

We can't wait to see you in Carlsbad!





SPOTLIGHT ON OUR VENDOR PARTNERS

AACOM: Gold Sponsor

Advancing Clinical Education Through Strategic, Optimal Partnerships

The American Association of Colleges of Osteopathic Medicine (AACOM) recently convened a national Clinical Education Think Tank, an intensive working session of leaders in medical education, healthcare delivery, and innovation, to chart a more sustainable, future-focused model of clinical training for osteopathic medical students. Participants agreed that clinical education is at a critical inflection point, challenged by rising numbers of learners, inconsistent training environments, and escalating operational pressures on clinical sites.

Rather than pursuing incremental fixes, the group called for transforming the relationship between colleges of osteopathic medicine (COMs) and clinical partners into strategic, optimal partnerships that advance shared goals. Key themes were enhancing student readiness so learners can contribute earlier to care teams, strengthening support for preceptors, and aligning training with the evolving priorities of hospitals and health systems, including workforce development, quality improvement, and patient experience.

The Think Tank report outlines a dual approach: optimizing current partnerships to create measurable value today while also developing a new, longitudinal, competency-based model of clinical education that integrates meaningful clinical experience from Day One. This approach positions COMs as preferred partners, flexible and mission driven, and equipped to help sites expand capacity, reduce burden, and cultivate a workforce pathway for community focused physicians.

An Invitation to AIAMC Members

AACOM welcomes engagement with AIAMC institutions interested in piloting innovative clinical education models, strengthening workforce pathways, and building sustainable, mission aligned training partnerships. Together, we can create a clinical education ecosystem that better serves learners, preceptors, institutions, and the communities they serve.

Germane Solutions: Silver Sponsor

Germane Solutions is the nation's leading boutique healthcare consulting firm dedicated exclusively to Academic Medicine and Graduate Medical Education (GME). Built by seasoned professionals with deep institutional expertise, we deliver end-to-end solutions that meet the full spectrum of GME and Academic Medicine needs.

We partner with hospitals, health systems, and academic partners to advance their strategic, operational, and financial goals with clarity and precision. Our approach is rooted in data, driven by strategy, and guided by a commitment to expanding the healthcare workforce and strengthening the physician pipeline nationwide through strong, sustainable GME programs.

Founded with a mission to elevate our clients through excellence, and a vision to revolutionize the delivery of Academic Medicine and GME, we've done exactly that. Our comprehensive service lines deliver a fully packaged, all-inclusive suite of GME solutions spanning Strategy, Finance, Operations, Accreditation, Community & Population Health, Marketing, and Human Resources.

From concept to execution, Germane Solutions does everything GME, helping organizations strengthen their infrastructure, enhance program performance, and build educational environments where future clinicians thrive.

Partnership Program



The AIAMC Partners Program is designed to cultivate a meaningful relationship between our members and the companies that sponsor AIAMC educational outreach programs. Partner support is critical to our ongoing ability to develop and present substantive programs with knowledgeable faculty in central and appealing locations.

**Thank you
to our vendor
partners!**

If you would like to be a vendor partner with AIAMC, contact Kimberly Pierce Burke, Executive Director, by e-mailing kimberly@aiamc.org.

2026 Vendor Partners Secured to Date

The AIAMC Partners Program is designed to cultivate a meaningful relationship between our members and the companies who so generously sponsor our educational outreach programs. You will have the opportunity to meet key representatives from these companies at our Annual Meeting April 16th—18th in Carlsbad, California. If you are unable to attend the Annual Meeting, additional information will be available throughout the year via our *Alliance Update* newsletter and website.

GOLD SPONSOR:



SILVER SPONSOR:



BRONZE SPONSORS:



KERN NATIONAL NETWORK
FOR FLOURISHING IN HEALTH
Character. Caring. Practical Wisdom.



EXHIBITORS:



AIAMC Mission Statement

To serve as a learning organization of independent academic medical centers through the application of innovative education and scholarship that drives exceptional patient care.

AIAMC Vision Statement

To be the leader in achieving exceptional health and well-being outcomes for the communities we serve through medical education and scholarship.

The Alliance of Independent Academic Medical Centers
PO Box 35756
Canton, OH 44735

Alliance Update is a bi-monthly, members-only publication provided by the Alliance of Independent Academic Medical Centers (AIAMC).

Please send news submissions to Kimberly Pierce Burke, Executive Director, by e-mailing kimberly@aiamc.org or by calling 330.497.8332.

Follow us on social media!



In our next issue (March)

- Weinberg Award Winner
- National Initiative Impact Award Winner
- Partner Profiles