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KIMBERLY R. ENARD, PhD, MBA, MSHA, FACHE® NAMED 2024 JOHN D. THOMPSON PRIZE RECIPIENT

Washington, DC, December 12, 2023 – The John D. Thompson Prize Selection Committee is pleased to announce the selection of Kimberly R. Enard, PhD, MBA, MSHA, FACHE®, Associate Professor, Department of Health Management and Policy, Saint Louis University, as the 2024 recipient.

The Prize recognizes faculty based on their overall contributions to the field of health administration education, broadly defined. This includes scholarly and practice-oriented research, teaching accomplishments, and other relevant experiences and achievements in areas such as curriculum and program building; student mentoring; and leadership in the health administration education field. Mid-career faculty, e.g., those who are at the Associate Professor level and/or have been in an academic position for an appropriate length of time, allowing for the building of a strong, multi-faceted record, are the desired focus for this award. Dr. Enard was nominated by Michael D. Rozier, SJ, PhD, Associate Professor and Department Chair, Health Management and Policy, at Saint Louis University.

“Dr. Enard is a leader in the field of health administration. She is committed to high-quality teaching, producing meaningful research, and expanding access to healthcare management education among underrepresented students,” said Christopher Louis, PhD, MBA, Associate Professor of Health Law, Policy & Management, Boston University School of Public Health, a 2021 Thompson Prize recipient, and Chair of the 2024 Thompson Prize Selection Committee. “She is an innovator who enjoys developing and leading programs, both in-person and online, and the totality of her work spoke volumes to the Thompson Prize committee. It was also clear to us that her skill and accomplishments are only surpassed by her passion for engaging and mentoring students. Dr. Enard represents all the qualities that the Thompson Prize stands for and we are thrilled to name her as this year’s recipient.”

“I am profoundly honored and deeply grateful to receive the 2024 John D. Thompson Prize from AUPHA,” said Dr. Enard. “To become part of the legacy of outstanding Thompson Prize scholars is truly humbling and will forever fuel my passion and commitment to promoting excellence in our field.”

“As the daughter of a teacher and a nurse who made enormous sacrifices to attend and earn a degree from an historically black college or university (HBCU), I have always been inspired by those who not only take the road less traveled but also pave the way for others to follow. I believe the faculty who have earned the distinction of being Thompson Prize scholars are emblematic of such a pioneering spirit – they continually use their influence, determination, and talent to make higher education a more accessible, inclusive, and innovative training space for future generations of healthcare leaders.”

“Thank you to all of my mentors, colleagues, students, friends, and family for supporting my journey and lifting me up just when I need it. I am so grateful and truly blessed to have you all as sources of inspiration and knowledge.”

Kimberly R. Enard, PhD, MBA, MSHA, FACHE® is an Associate Professor of Health Management & Policy. Dr. Enard is Director of the Master of Health Administration Program and Executive Director of the Heartland Center for Population Health and Community Systems Development in the College for Public Health & Social Justice (CPHSJ) at Saint Louis University (SLU). Her professional background encompasses more than 20 years of management and consulting experience with large integrated health systems and community-based organizations in areas involving strategic planning and business development; program planning and evaluation; performance improvement, and community engagement. Dr. Enard holds several local and national leadership positions, including serving as a board member of AUPHA, chair-elect of the AUPHA Management and Leadership Faculty Forum, Fellow of the Commission on Accreditation of Healthcare Management Education, and President-Elect of CPHSJ Faculty Assembly at SLU. Dr. Enard is board-certified in healthcare management and is a Fellow of the American College of Healthcare Executives (FACHE®). Prior to transitioning to the healthcare industry, Dr. Enard worked as a journalist in local and national media markets.

Dr. Enard’s overarching research goal is to address health inequities using community-engaged, patient- and family-centered approaches that recognize the complex, multilevel factors that influence each person’s health and well-being over their life course. Dr. Enard investigates the characteristics of communities, health systems and individuals that shape processes and outcomes of care, with a particular focus on patient engagement among safety-net populations. Dr. Enard is interested in partnering with communities and health systems to develop policies, practices and tools that educate and empower patients.

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