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KEITH J. BENSON, PhD, FACHE, NAMED RECIPIENT OF THE 2026 GARY L. FILERMAN PRIZE FOR EDUCATIONAL LEADERSHIP

Washington, DC, January 12, 2026 – The Gary L. Filerman Prize for Educational Leadership Selection Committee is pleased to announce the selection of Keith J. Benson, PhD, FACHE, as the recipient of the 2026 Gary L. Filerman Prize for Educational Leadership. Benson will be recognized during AUPHA's Annual Meeting, June 9 – 11, in San Diego, California.

The Filerman Prize recognizes individuals from AUPHA member programs who have made outstanding contributions to the field of healthcare management education, who have exhibited leadership in their field, and who have enriched their institutions, their students, and healthcare management through their work.

“The Filerman Prize Selection Committee was unanimously supportive of Keith Benson as this year’s recipient. Dr. Benson’s strong contributions in health administration education include serving as Board Chair of the Association of University Programs in Health Administration and as a fellow of the Commission on Accreditation of Healthcare Management Education (CAHME). His extensive teaching and research over his 30-year career in academics have undoubtedly influenced countless students and leaders. Dr. Benson is highly deserving of this prestigious recognition,” said Stephen Bowman, PhD, MHA, Professor and MHA Program Director, Fay W. Boozman College of Public Health, University of Arkansas for Medical Sciences, and Chair of the 2026 Filerman Prize Selection Committee.

“I am honored and humbled to be the 2026 Filerman Prize recipient, an award that carries the legacy of Dr. Gary Filerman and previous awardees who have shaped our field,” said Dr. Benson. “Throughout my career, colleagues, mentors, and staff from AUPHA have been a guiding

force to improve healthcare management education for the students and communities I serve. I am deeply grateful to AUPHA and to be counted among such esteemed company.”

Keith J. Benson is the University of Florida Master of Health Administration Program Director and Clinical Professor in the Department of Health Services Research, Management and Policy in the College of Public Health and Health Professions. Benson has a PhD in Health Policy and Administration and an MHA from Penn State University. He also has an MBA in Strategic Leadership from Winthrop University. Benson began his career in the USAF as a Military Public Health Technician. Previous roles include MHA Program Director and Instructor at Penn State, Director of Graduate Studies, Program Director of Healthcare Management, and Professor in the College of Business Administration at Winthrop University. In 2025, Benson earned the FACHE credential from the American College of Healthcare Executives (ACHE). Benson currently serves on the Commission on Accreditation in Healthcare Management Education (CAHME) Board and previously served on the AUPHA Board.

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The Association of University Programs in Health Administration (AUPHA) is a global network of colleges, universities, faculty, individuals, and organizations dedicated to the improvement of healthcare delivery through excellence in healthcare management and policy education. Its mission is to foster excellence and drive innovation in health management and policy education and promote the value of university-based management education for leadership roles in the health sector. It is the only non-profit entity of its kind that works to improve the delivery of health services – and thus the health of citizens – throughout the world by educating professional managers at the entry level. AUPHA’s membership includes the premier bachelor’s, master’s, and doctoral programs in healthcare management education in the United States, Canada, and around the world. For more information, please visit www.aupha.org.