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**AHE EXCHANGE 2018 to be Held in Columbus, Ohio  
– New Ohio State University Collaboration Details**

**Chicago, September 6, 2017** - The Association for the Healthcare Environment (AHE) of the American Hospital Association (AHA) announces the annual EXCHANGE education conference will be held in Columbus, Ohio on September 24-27, 2018. This announcement comes with new details on AHE's collaboration with The Ohio State University to create the first academic certificate in healthcare environmental services within a hospitality management program.

Efforts kick off with the launch of the first college level academic course, *Introduction to Healthcare Environmental and Hospitality Services*. The course will be a distance-learning course, making it accessible to both Ohio State students and adult learners, including AHE members. It will detail the application and discussion of healthcare business and analysis of critical healthcare areas in relation to hospitality components. Originally slated to be available Fall 2017, the course will now launch in spring 2018 to ensure greater reach and a more cohesive delivery of all elements of the program.

Program elements include an internship/mentorship program and the opportunity for students to attend EXCHANGE 2018. The internship/mentorship program is anticipated to be available summer 2018 and will allow students to learn outside of the classroom, and gain practical experience in healthcare. A generous grant provided by the Columbus Visitors Bureau will allow for a select group of Ohio State students to attend EXCHANGE in Columbus next year and develop invaluable networking and collaboration skills.

"We are pleased to launch this program and allow students the opportunity to explore another avenue," said Milos Bujisic, Assistant Professor, Department of Human Sciences, The Ohio State University. "With the addition of the internship program, students will be able to broaden their field of knowledge."

"Our members have been inquiring about a formal program for an accredited university for some time now," said Patti Costello, executive director of AHE, a professional membership group of the American Hospital Association (AHA). "This collaboration with the Ohio State University

provides AHE the opportunity to give our members a program that validates their knowledge, and create a path for succession planning.”

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**About AHE**

The Association for the Healthcare Environment (AHE) is a personal membership group of the American Hospital Association. AHE is the professional organization of choice for professionals responsible for caring for the patient and resident care environment across all care settings; including hospitals, long-term care, continuing care retirement communities and ambulatory care. AHE shapes professional practice, advances, promotes the profession, and promotes awareness for over 2,200 professionals working to ensure a clean and safe care environment and quality outcomes. [www.ahe.org](http://www.ahe.org)

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