

## AHA Members Now Have Access to Strategies, Resources from the Institute for Diversity and Health Equity

Special Message from Ninfa Saunders, Nicholas Tejeda and Rick Pollack

Recently, the Institute for Diversity in Health Management changed its name to the Institute for Diversity and Health Equity (the Institute). This reflects the integral relationship diversity and health equity have within health care. The change also brings an updated vision for the Institute: *Empower health organizations to provide equitable care for all persons.*

To truly advance health in America, we must improve access and quality of care for all people, in every community. That's why all AHA hospital and health system members are now members of the Institute\*.

You have access to strategies that work, resources that help as well as data that informs and is actionable. This alignment elevates the Institute's work into core AHA benefits, enabling wider adoption of proven methods that increase diversity and inclusion among health care leadership and eliminate disparities in care.

The Institute supports hospital and health system efforts to improve diversity, inclusion and health equity through three areas of focus:

- **Expertise:** The Institute's leaders and board, as well as practitioners from its advisory council and the field, offer knowledge and strategies to support individuals and organizations in providing quality, equitable care.
- **Education:** The Institute supports diversity and equity in health care with its national repository of tools, case studies, technical assistance and programs, including the [National Leadership and Education Conference](#); the [Diversity Dialogue](#) webinar series; [Diversity, Equity and Cultural Competency Assessment Tool for Leaders](#); and #123forEquity Training Symposiums, among other resources.
- **Agent of Change:** The Institute fosters dialogue and collaboration among key stakeholders and community partners to advance diversity, inclusion and health equity, such as the [#123forEquity pledge](#), [Summer Enrichment Program](#), and the strong alliance with the National Urban League to increase board diversity and community health worker programs.

Many hospitals and health systems have already demonstrated their commitment to these areas through the #123forEquity pledge. In fact, insurers are recognizing the importance of this impactful effort. For example, hospitals that have taken the pledge are being recognized by insurers such as CIGNA for meeting key quality metrics that drive better health outcomes, affordability and patient experience through its Hospital Collaborative Care program. This is just one example of the many exciting collaborations the Institute has planned for this year.

We have the opportunity to finally and unequivocally eliminate disparities as health care leaders. We know that quality can't be achieved without equity of care – both issues interwoven and critical as hospitals and health systems address affordability. It's why the [AHA Value Initiative](#) crosses over with many of the Institute's goals. For those currently active in the Institute's work – thank you and let's keep this momentum going. For those tackling diversity and health equity issues, join us as together we improve health care for all.

Sincerely,

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President and CEO Navicent Health

Nicholas Tejeda  
Institute Chair  
CEO The Hospitals of Providence – Transmountain Campus

Rick Pollack  
AHA President and CEO

*\*Fee-based membership categories of the Institute will be available to for-profit organizations; non-AHA members; state, regional and metropolitan hospital associations; academic organizations; and full-time students.*