Health care leaders gather at Barley Vine

By JUSTIN MUSZYNSKI
STAFF WRITER

Bristol — Health care leaders from around the state celebrated the ceremonial acceptance of 14 "Fellows" to the Connecticut Chapter of the American College of Healthcare Executives Monday evening.

Barley Vine hosted the event, complete with hors d'oeuvres and live jazz music.

"These events that we put on are great networking opportunities," said Kurt Barwis, president and CEO of Bristol Hospital who is also the president of CTACHE. "It's really what our organization is all about."

He also added that many of the "Fellows" have been a part of the Connecticut chapter for as long as a year, but that this was more of a formal recognition.

"We're trying to promote leadership and education as well as a focus on diversity and inclusion," he said. "This particular affair is also a wonderful chance to showcase the city of Bristol."

Darlene Stromstad, president and CEO of Waterbury Hospital, said that becoming associated with the organization is a great honor in the profession.

"There's a real active involvement from the leaders and this is something that isn't easy to accomplish," Stromstad said, who is a board member of the Connecticut Chapter.

She also said that there are more than 43,000 members of the ACHE nation-wide including approximately 550 in the Connecticut Chapter.

Also at the event was Bill Jennings, president and CEO of Bridgeport Hospital and EVP of Yale New Haven Health System.

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Thomas Burke of Waterbury Hospital visits with other members during a meeting of the Connecticut Association of Healthcare Executives, the state chapter of the American College of Healthcare Executives, on Monday. Below, members enjoy the reception at Barley Vine.

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A meeting of the Connecticut Association of Healthcare Executives, the state chapter of the American College of Healthcare Executives, is hosted on Monday at Barley Vine in Bristol.

"We want to encourage advancement and education in the profession and we do lots of events where we're learning from each other in order to teach those younger than us," said Jennings, who became the president of CTACHE in June. "We have half-a-dozen or so students of graduate programs here and it's a really good chance for them to meet a lot of respected leaders."

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>
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> President and CEO of Waterbury Hospital

One of the "Fellows" being recognized was Denise Peterson, R.N., M.S. She said she was privileged to become certified by the ACHE and that it is a very rigorous process.

"It gives you recognition in the culmination of your experience and expertise," said Peterson, who has been a part of the ACHE for about a year. "It's about mentoring and learning from others in order to make better decisions and this shouldn't be taken lightly."

The evening of socializing and exchanging ideas was followed by a tour of the ESPN headquarters.

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Bristol Hospital President and CEO Kurt Barwis speaks to other members Monday.

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