

Faculty Spotlight

Dr. Rupert Evans

Chairman and Program Director
Associate Professor of Health Administration
College of Health and Human Services

Interviewed by Jessica Butler



JB: Tell us something about yourself?

RE: I am a Harvard Macy Scholar, a fellow in the UIC Public Health Leadership Institute and a fellow in the American College of Health Care Executives. I served as the immediate past President of the Institute for Diversity in Health Management, a 501c(3) corporation founded by the American Hospital Association, American College of Health Care Executives, National Association of Health Services Executives, the Association of Hispanic Health Executives and the Catholic Health Association of the United States, which is the premier institution for advancing diversity and inclusion in healthcare leadership in the nation. I am also the past President of the Chicago/Mid-west Chapter of the National Association of Health Services Executives (NAHSE). I've written articles for *Hospitals and Health Systems Magazine*, *Modern Healthcare* and *Journal of the American College of Health Care Executives* and have authored two text book chapters on diversity and organizational development. I've served as faculty for Rush University, Department of Health Systems Management, the Governance Institute, American College of Health Care Executives, National Association of Health Services Executives, AONE, the American Governance and Leadership Group, and The International and Quality and Productivity Center. I hold a Doctorate of Healthcare Administration from Central Michigan University, Master's degree in Public Administration/Health Services Management and BA in Environmental Studies. I am a Life Member of Kappa Alpha Psi Fraternity Inc., and Post 311 Veterans of Foreign Wars.

JB: What were the driving factors in your decision to join the GSU faculty? Please provide and anecdotal evidence you feel contributed to this desire?

RE: I have been a practicing health care executive for 40 years; I felt that I knew a lot about the health care field that I could share with developing young future executives. That is why I chose to move into academia and to GSU.

JB: What's your teaching philosophy or your outlook on higher education?

RE: I have a philosophy, that in the field of health care management, learners need a broad educational experience, which includes a well-grounded foundation of theory in the principles of healthcare finance, economics, qualitative and quantitative research methods, information systems, and management. They also need to be able to move from theory to practice and learn to apply what they have learned in real world scenarios. In addition, learners need access to the world of practice through the teachings of individuals who are actively engaged in leading our healthcare delivery systems. Over the past year, I have brought value to Governors State University (GSU) and the College of Health and Human Services by being the conduit between our learners and the field of practice in health administration. The following statements summarize my teaching philosophy:

- i. The curriculum should meet the learners where they begin and help guide them in achieving goals and objectives throughout their educational journey.
- ii. The curriculum is grounded in authentic, meaningful experiences that integrate major themes in the curriculum to maintain a holistic vision of what is learned.

- iii. The curriculum design involves regular program evaluation and adjustment to allow flexibility in response to changing educational needs.

JB: How do you see your role on campus, outside of teaching?

RE: I serve as a mentor for young men on campus. I believe they need guidance and support in navigating their education. I am also active in veterans' affairs and advise student veterans.

JB: What are some of your favorite things to do when you're not teaching?

RE: Create tool boxes my students can use as they develop their careers. I love to use cases and real world experiences to support the students' learning.

JB: Please list any awards or significant accomplishments that you are proud of?

RE:

- Governors State University Student Leadership Institute Award 2015
- Governors State University Student Leadership Institute Award 2014
- Governors State University Social Welfare and Policy Award 2013
- Richton Park Alumni Chapter, Kappa Alpha Psi Fraternity, Inc. Award of Achievement 2011
- National Association of Health Services Executives National Service Award 2011
- Alpha Kappa Alpha Monarch Award 2010
- American College of Healthcare Executives National Service Award 2010
- American College of Healthcare Executives Regents Award 2003
- Modern Healthcare Magazine top 100 "Most Powerful People in Healthcare 2004
- Modern Healthcare Magazine top 100 "Most Powerful People in Healthcare 2002
- Awarded the Meritorious Service Medal, Air Force Commendation Medal, Joint Service Achievement Medal, Air Force Achievement Medal, National Defense Medal and Air Force Good Conduct Medal for his military service

JB: What do you love most about your job, Governors State University and your department?

RE: Colleagues, students and seeing my students achieve.

JB: What are your goals for Governors State University and your department? How do you plan to achieve those goals?

RE: To maintain continuous accreditation, build a new program in health informatics. I plan to meet our goals through continuous quality improvement.

JB: Do you have any advice for current students?

RE: Build your dreams and live your dreams.

Have you developed any long lasting relationships with former students? What are some of the ways you stay in touch with them now?

RE: I consider myself a mentor for life for my students. We keep in touch with each other through social media and professional societies.

JB: If you had to sit next to someone one on a plane for the next 8 hours, who would it be and why?

RE: One of the most interesting men I know, General Colin Powell.