

NEWS RELEASE*March 3rd, 2015***FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE****Three HSyE Summer Intern Alums Awarded at 2015 SHS Conference**

Each year, leading healthcare practitioners and academicians from across the nation gather for the Healthcare Systems Process Improvement Conference sponsored by the Society for Health Systems (SHS). As one of SHS's largest annual events, attendees engaged in educational workshops, breakout sessions, panel discussions, exhibits, competitions, and abundant networking opportunities.

The 2015 SHS conference, held February 18-20 at the Rosen Plaza Hotel in Orlando, recognized three alums of the Healthcare Systems Engineering Institute's (HSyE) 2014 Summer Internship Program for their accomplishments in the field of healthcare systems engineering. Mary Ali Hobbs, a senior industrial engineering student at Clemson University, was awarded this year's conference scholarship for her efforts as a student member of SHS and her contributions to industrial engineering in healthcare. Ali reflected on her summer internship at HSyE as key to providing hands-on experience applying systems engineering techniques to healthcare.

HSyE alum April Soler of University of Wisconsin-Madison won first place in the FlexSim healthcare competition, with former intern Rebecca Mantecon of San José State University as runner up. The competition challenges teams to solve "real-world" healthcare case studies using FlexSim's simulation software, with finalists' solutions presented for final judging at the conference. This year's task was to optimize the emergency department operations of a regional medical center by selecting the best delivery method and optimal staffing level. The competition attracted 155 students and faculty from seven countries, with a total of 35 teams contending for first place.

April says, "My internship at HSyE was an invaluable experience that has helped me in all of my healthcare IE successes." Rebecca appreciated the conference experience, "I really enjoyed learning more about what universities, hospitals, and other professionals are doing in the world of healthcare improvement. Every time I interact with people from that realm, it makes me more excited to go out into the workforce and be a part of the great changes taking place."

This year's conference included a Student Welcome Reception sponsored by HSyE, providing an opportunity for student attendees to get a jump-start on their conference networking as well as learn more about HSyE's programs. Dr. James Benneyan, HSyE Director, made presentations on the value of the Institute's summer internship program and highlighted "triple aim" project successes under the Institute's Center for Medicare and Medicaid Innovation Award applying industrial and systems engineering to healthcare. Dr. Benneyan is proud to have been a part of this year's conference and congratulates HSyE alums and conference award winners.

Northeastern University's Healthcare Systems Engineering Institute (HSyE) is a university-wide institute focused on broadly impacting healthcare through the integration of research, application, and education in systems engineering methods. The Institute houses four federally-awarded healthcare industrial engineering centers, coop and summer internship programs, and a post-doctoral development program, with core funding from the National Science Foundation, Centers for Medicare and Medicaid, National Institutes of Health, Veterans Health Administration, and Agency for Healthcare Research and Quality.

The Society for Health Systems (SHS) is a society of the Institute of Industrial Engineers and strives for the improvement of healthcare practices through systems engineering and analysis. Led by a professionally diverse Board of Directors, the association serves as a resource and supports healthcare practitioners around the world.

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