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## ***NEWS RELEASE***

### **ASHHRA Announces First Thought Leader Forum**

CHICAGO – Aug. 1, 2008 – The American Society for Healthcare Human Resources (ASHHRA), a professional membership group of the American Hospital Association (AHA), held its first Thought Leader Forum on Thursday, July 24, 2008 in San Diego, prior to the 16<sup>th</sup> Annual Health Forum/AHA Leadership Summit.

A select group of thought leaders—AHA-member CEOs as well as health care quality and patient safety experts—participated in the first Forum, a two-hour session titled, “The Role of HR in Quality and Patient Safety.” The CEOs in particular noted that human resources leaders play a pivotal role in creating a culture of quality and patient safety.

“As HR leaders, we can strategically weave the message of quality and patient safety into all areas of human resources, from recruitment and training to recognition and education,” said ASHHRA President Jeanene Martin. “This is a great opportunity for ASHHRA to offer best practices and resources that help members strategically realize the kind of quality and patient safety-centered culture they desire.”

The summary of findings from the July 24 Thought Leader Forum will be published in the coming weeks and shared with ASHHRA members as well as all AHA-member CEOs. A second Thought Leader Forum, “The Role of HR in Health Care Workforce Issues,” is scheduled for Oct. 11, 2008 in Austin, Texas, prior to the ASHHRA Annual Conference and Exposition. For more information about ASHHRA and the Thought Leader Forums, go to [www.ashhra.org](http://www.ashhra.org).

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#### **About ASHHRA**

Founded in 1964, ASHHRA is the leading voice for HR professionals in health care—linking people and organizations to leadership practices, best practices to patient outcomes, and outcomes to business results. Headquartered in Chicago, Ill., the society has more than 3,400 members and services the needs

of over 50 chapters throughout the United States. For more information about ASHRA, visit [www.ashra.org](http://www.ashra.org).