



Brian Thomas  
2016 Alumnus of the Year

Brian Thomas received his BS degree in Health Information Management from Louisiana Tech University in 1995. While in the curriculum for HIM, Brian developed a calling to pursue hospital administration. Following his years at Tech, Brian attended the University of Alabama at Birmingham where he received his Master's degree in Business Administration and a Master's in Health Administration in 1997 & 1998 respectively. As a component of his Masters in Health Administration, Brian completed his Administrative Residency from Huntsville Hospital in north Alabama.

Brian's career began when he joined Jefferson Regional Medical Center in Pine Bluff, AR in 1998, where he served as Administrative Director Physician Practices & Operations. "JRMC" afforded Brian with a great deal of opportunity, as well as tremendous experiences and skillsets that would be valuable to his future. In 2002, Brian was recruited by Howard Memorial Hospital in Nashville, AR, where he served as Chief Executive Officer for three years. Brian went on to serve in the Chief Operating Officer capacity in the for-profit hospital arena with stints at J.F.K. Memorial Hospital in Indio, Ca. and later Crestwood Medical Center in Huntsville, AL. Opportunity brought Brian back to Pine Bluff in 2010 when he returned to Jefferson Regional as Senior Vice President and Chief Operating Officer. Earlier this year, a transition occurred at JRMC, and Brian is now serving as Interim President & CEO for this 330-bed hospital. Brian is a viable candidate for the permanent CEO role, which is responsible for over 1,300 employees, 140 physicians and an annual operating budget of \$175M.

Brian is most proud of his family, which includes his wife Angela (also a graduate of Tech in Speech Pathology), and their two daughters, Kaleigh (15) and Laura-Kate (11). Brian & his family live in Benton, AR.