Q & A with Brad Futrell, MHA Grad 2006
Chief Operating Officer/Human Resources Director
Hamilton Memorial Hospital District, McLeansboro, Illinois

Brad has been employed at Hamilton Memorial Hospital since 1995 and has held his current title since 2008. He was born and raised in McLeansboro. In fact, he was born about 50 feet away from his office, back when this hospital still delivered babies! His wife of 22 years (Cathy) teaches second grade at East Side Elementary in McLeansboro. They have two children: daughter, Grace, age 14, and son, Aden, age 11.

How has the MHA program helped you in your career? I think my MHA degree has given the CEO of our organization confidence in my knowledge and ability to manage numerous projects that are occurring simultaneously. In a small organization (approximately 160 employees) you have to be very organized and be able to prioritize the various tasks at hand. The MHA program truly helped me improve these skills, and these skills have been transferrable to my career.

Where else did you go to school? I earned a bachelor’s degree in Marketing from Southern Illinois University in Carbondale. Also, I’ve been certified as a Professional in Human Resources (PHR) by the Human Resources Certification Institute since 1998.

What did you like best about being a MHA student? The small class size and fellowship with cohorts was great. Everyone had different backgrounds, experiences, and knowledge bases, but we learned to work together in a group setting and pull from everyone’s strengths.

What is a favorite memory of any of the MHA courses or class activities? I really enjoyed the debates on the Blackboard. This exercise taught me the importance of being able to defend my position with facts instead of simply stating my opinion on a particular topic. This is a skill I still use today. When I find myself in a debate on an issue, I am much better prepared. I also think all of the speaking did in front of the class was important. This is a skill I use daily in presenting information and am much more comfortable doing so as a result of this program.

What are your hobbies or interests? What do you do in your spare time? Keeping up with my kid’s activities, spending time with family, coaching my children’s ball teams.

Anything else you’d like to add about your MHA experience? The MHA program at USI was wonderful. It was challenging, made me come out of my comfort zone, gave me confidence in my knowledge and abilities and really made me grow professionally. It was a wonderful experience, and I often find myself recommending the program to others.