



College of Human Ecology

Valerie Lyon, Sloan '91 is the past Director of Business and Finance for Cornell Health. During her 20 year career at Cornell, her passion and interest has been focused on improving access to care for college students. She played a key role in securing approval and funding for a \$55 million health care facility expansion and renovation project (scheduled for completion summer 2017) which will house integrated health and counseling services. She was also involved in the transition for the funding (summer 2015) for Cornell Health to a pre-paid funding, equalizing access to care for all students regardless of income or insurance status.

Val's accomplishments for Cornell University include establishing the first self-funded student health benefits plan in the State of New York, which required enabling legislation. She also drove an effort to partner with New York State to offer a health plan for Medicaid eligible registered Cornell students wherein the State pays for the Student Health Insurance Plan in lieu of Medicaid for those eligible students. Prior to this initiative, there were significant provider network limitations for these students, lack of access to mental providers and specialists within the area, and difficulty with care coordination - all of which negatively impacted access to care for students as well as upwardly impacted cost of care both to the State and student. The program is now a model for other states who have adopted a similar win/win programs saving state money and assuring access to quality health insurance for college students.

Nationally, she is known for her efforts to promote and advocate for high quality student health plans and policy initiatives that improve access to care for college health students. She is on the leadership team for the American College Student Health Insurance/Benefits Coalition, serving as Chair of the Coalition during the implementation of the Affordable Care Act. She is a co-organizer of the Lookout Mountain Group which is a non-profit group devoted to advocating for the health care access and insurance needs of college students. With her recent retirement from Cornell, Val is transitioning to health care consulting and will be working with a national firm that specializes in the College Health Field.

In addition to Sloan (class of 1991), Val holds a BS from Ithaca College. She is originally from the Finger Lakes and enjoys all aspects of living in the Ithaca. She is an avid cyclist and enjoys hiking, skiing and sailing. She is looking forward to working with Sloan students in her EIR capacity.