

Deborah D. Flint, PE, MBA, DSHS, FHIMSS, LSSBB

Current Position and Company. Deborah works at the Kirklin Clinic of University of Alabama at Birmingham (UAB) Hospital as Director of Performance Engineering.



Education History. Deborah has her Bachelor's Degree in Industrial Engineering from Auburn University and an MBA from UAB. She also completed a Certificate in Health Care Quality and Safety from UAB.

A Healthcare IE by Chance? A couple of weeks before graduation, Deborah was at a social event and was introduced to an IE graduate working as a healthcare consultant. He asked her if she had thought about working in healthcare (at that time, she didn't even know that IEs worked in healthcare!). When she expressed an interest, he gave her his contact information and asked her to send a resume. She did and he put it in the hands of the Director of Management Engineering at UAB Hospital. Shortly after graduation, she went to interview for the open position (at the time, it was called a "systems engineer") and was hired within the month! She has been at UAB for the past 28 years!!!

SHS Involvement. Deborah has served in many roles in SHS. She has chair and co-chaired the Student Committee and supported a track for the conference. She served as a Director from 2003-2005 and also was the Secretary from 1999-2000. She has been a member since 1991.

Daily Work Activities. Performance Engineering focuses on working with providers and clinic staff to optimize patient flow and reduce waste. Improving the patient experience is at the core of all projects. Her team utilizes a number of IE tools

on a daily basis, including simulation software, lean and six sigma tools, and others as projects warrant. As Director of Performance Engineering, she spends time mentoring and coaching staff and student interns, manages project workload throughout the department and works with clinic managers to implement recommendations to optimize patient flow and improve access.

Reasons She Is an SHS Member. Deborah values the SHS networking community (it is a close knit community with a wealth of resources) and the educational opportunities through conferences and webinars. Some of her favorite memories come from the conference. She finds each one of them unique.

Opportunities for Students. Deborah's team currently provides internships and class project opportunities for students from the University of Alabama at Birmingham School of Health Profession (Bachelor of Healthcare Management, MSHA) and Auburn University Industrial and Systems Engineering (Bachelor of Science). If you are interested in an opportunity, email [Deborah](#).

Passion for Healthcare. Deborah loves working in an academic setting. She loves to hear about the technological improvements and research that faculty and staff are doing to improve patient outcomes. She finds it an honor to help physicians improve their clinic flow with the goal to improve the work environment for not only providers and staff but also for patients. Seeing the medical advancements that can improve patient outcomes motivates her to help improve not only the staff's work environment but also the patient's experience.

For Fun. Deborah has two sons and she enjoys watching them play high school football and golf. You can often find her volunteering at these events. She also volunteers at her church.

Find Deborah on LinkedIn [here](#).