



news

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AHIMA Triumph Awards Honor Outstanding Accomplishments in Health Information Management

Recipients have 'made a difference' in the profession

Miami Beach, Fla. – Sept. 24, 2018 – The American Health Information Management Association (AHIMA) honored members at its annual AHIMA Triumph Awards ceremony today. The awards recognize the excellence, dedication and service of health information management (HIM) professionals whose work has enriched the field.

The awards were presented during [AHIMA's 90th Annual Convention & Exhibit](#) in Miami.

“The Triumph Awards are a time-honored celebration of outstanding accomplishments in the HIM profession,” said AHIMA CEO Wylecia Wiggs Harris, PhD, CAE. “We are pleased to honor these truly remarkable individuals who have made a difference in the HIM profession.”

Distinguished Member Award

Mark S. Dietz, RHIA, was posthumously named the 2018 Distinguished Member, AHIMA's highest honor. Dietz, who died in May, served on AHIMA's Board of Directors and the AHIMA Foundation board. Dietz, a healthcare consultant, was a sought-after speaker on a variety of HIM and healthcare finance topics and a dedicated mentor to HIM professionals and students. Dietz's longtime friend C. Jeanne Solberg, MA, RHIA, FAHIMA, accepted the award on behalf of Dietz and his family.

Advocacy and Public Policy Award

Tracy A. Elmer, RHIA, received the Advocacy and Public Policy Award. Elmer is director of clinical information systems, Epic clinical education and training, and biomed at Rady Children's Hospital in San Diego. Elmer is in her second year as chair of AHIMA's Advocacy and Policy Council and has served as president and board member of the California Health Information Association. She was instrumental in designing AHIMA's 2018 public policy principles, which serve as a road map for federal and state policy issues affecting the HIM profession.

Educator Award

Mariruth “Mari” Petrik, MBA, RHIA, CCS, CCS-P, received the Educator Award. Petrik is a professor at Moraine Valley Community College in Palos Hills, IL. She is notable for developing and teaching a capstone course to help students not only pass the RHIT exam but also score consistently above the national exam average. She has served in leadership positions within the Illinois Health Information Management Association and the Chicago Area Health Information Management Association.

Emerging Leader Award

Davin D. Foster, RHIT, is honored with the Emerging Leader Award. Foster is compliance officer at Coffeyville Regional Medical Center in Kansas. After receiving his RHIT certification in 2014, Foster expanded his career by serving as director of HIM/privacy officer in various healthcare organizations. He has also been an active volunteer in the Missouri Health Information Management Association (MoHIMA) and the Ozark Area HIM Association, and he received the MoHIMA Rising Star award this year.

Leadership Award

Sue Clarke-Kendrick, MHA, RHIA, received the Leadership Award. Clarke-Kendrick is the AVP of HIM and CDI operations at Wyckoff Heights Medical Center in Brooklyn, NY. She also serves as the curriculum chair of the health information technology program at Westchester Community College, where she has designed three educational programs that are part of the college's curriculum. She is president-elect of the New York Health Information Management Association and a former president of the Tappan Zee Health Information Management Association.

Mentor Award

Kealia “Kay” A. Folck, MHA, RHIA, CPEHR, CPHIT, received the Mentor Award. Folck is a clinical assistant professor at the University of Kansas Medical Center in Kansas City, KS. Her career has encompassed traditional HIM management, health IT, resource and quality management, and legal and risk management as well as academia. In addition, she has supported and counseled students as an educator and as part of AHIMA's Mentor Match program.

Student Award

Two individuals received the Student Award.

Andrea K. Pringle, a student at Florida A&M University (FAMU), is recognized for her academic excellence and involvement in many campus activities. She was honored by FAMU as the 2018 Outstanding Student for the School of Allied Health Division of Health Informatics and Information Management. Pringle is also a student liaison on the Florida Health Information Management Association (FHIMA) board of directors and led fellow students in advocating on FHIMA Hill Day.

Isabel Quintana, MA, CCA, is a student at University of Central Florida (UCF), where she has been the recipient of several academic honors. She is also administrative coordinator of referral services and continuity of care at UCF Student Health Services. She currently serves as the

FHIMA student liaison and was instrumental in planning and executing the first FHIMA Student and New Professional Convention in February. Prior to her studies at UCF, she earned a master's degree in history at Tulane University.

The AHIMA Triumph Awards are sponsored by 3M.

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About AHIMA

The American Health Information Management Association (AHIMA) represents more than 103,000 health information professionals in the United States and around the world. AHIMA is committed to promoting and advocating for best practices and effective standards in health information and to actively contributing to the development and advancement of health information professionals worldwide. AHIMA is advancing informatics, data analytics, and information governance to achieve the goal of providing expertise to ensure trusted information for healthcare. www.ahima.org