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AHIMA gratefully acknowledges the generous support of 3M Science. Applied to Life.™

AHIMA has a long and cherished tradition of honoring the excellence, dedication, and service of those professionals whose steadfast efforts have enriched the health information management (HIM) field. This time-honored celebration of outstanding accomplishments continues with the 2017 AHIMA Triumph Awards.

The AHIMA Triumph Awards are national awards designed to recognize those special individuals who have made a difference in the HIM profession. The AHIMA Triumph Awards honor leaders in the HIM field, reward contributions that build our knowledge base, recognize excellence in preparing future HIM professionals, and encourage fresh talent and new leadership.

Congratulations to the 2017 AHIMA Triumph Awards recipients and nominees!
ANGELA C. KENNEDY,
EdD, MBA, RHIA
The **DISTINGUISHED MEMBER AWARD** is AHIMA’s highest honor and Triumph Award. This award celebrates an individual with a long, exceptional history of health information management (HIM) contributions. It is awarded to an outstanding member with an extraordinary record of contributions to the field through dedicated volunteer service over many years.

AHIMA is honored to present the 2017 Distinguished Member Triumph Award to Angela C. Kennedy, EdD, MBA, RHIA. For almost 30 years, she has advanced the field of HIM and health informatics from Louisiana, across the United States, and beyond. She has an exceptional record of contributions to HIM and health informatics (HI) through her innovative teaching, research, scholarly activities, and volunteer service.

Dr. Kennedy’s HIM volunteer service began in Louisiana and then nationally with AHIMA. She never hesitated to assume her role as president/chair of AHIMA six months early when our association suffered the loss of then-current president, Kathleen Frawley. One of Dr. Kennedy’s fellow Board members says she always had time to talk with and support her board members, and made them feel as if they were the only thing on her agenda for the day. As she completed her role as AHIMA past president/chair, Dr. Kennedy was appointed as a member of the United States Office of the National Coordinator Health Information and Standards and Consumer Task Force Committee. She also works with the United States Senate HELP Committee.

She is well known for partnering with Gracie, her daughter, in the national campaign to “Raise Awareness for Personal Health Information.” They have shared their experiences of inaccurate or missing data and its impact on Gracie’s medical care for her chronic health condition. The two of them have urged their audiences to make a commitment to consumers to provide health information when and where they need it. Dr. Kennedy continues to share the urgency and importance of health information exchange and the need for information governance practices in healthcare.

Dr. Kennedy has accomplished so much and continues to advance the HIM profession in her roles as HIM educator, volunteer leader, and mentor. She personifies the attributes of leadership and contributions to the profession that AHIMA’s Distinguished Member Triumph Award recognizes. Congratulations Dr. Kennedy for the honor, grace, and outstanding leadership you bring to AHIMA and the HIM profession!
The **ADVOCACY AND PUBLIC POLICY** Award honors those whose long-term and enthusiastic support of advocacy and public policy efforts have advanced the health information management (HIM) profession to achieve its mission and/or advancement in HIM practice through involvement in HIM, health information technology (HIT), and health information exchange (HIE) through active engagement at local, state, and/or national levels.

AHIMA is proud to select Colleen A. Goethals, MS, RHIA, FAHIMA, as recipient of the 2017 Advocacy and Public Policy Triumph Award. Ms. Goethals is currently employed by R1 RCM, Inc. as director of HIM at Ascension Columbia St. Mary’s, and is an independent HIM consultant.

As a veteran volunteer and advocate for the HIM profession, Ms. Goethals continues to be on the forefront of HIM advocacy and public policy. Having served as a member of the AHIMA Board of Directors and as a member of AHIMA’s Advocacy and Policy Council, she has championed the significance of engaging with legislators on issues of importance to the HIM profession. She has participated in AHIMA’s Hill Day for over 10 years, chaired the State Advocacy Workgroup, and has led state advocacy efforts through phone calls, letters, and personal visits with legislators. Ms. Goethals speaks at multiple state and regional meetings offering awareness, insight and guidance on all aspects of advocacy. ICD-10, HIPAA, and HIE’s have been key issues in her advocacy efforts. Her diligence in reviewing and analyzing legislation along with her engagement with legislators at the state and national level has helped to influence regulations and formulate best practice guidelines.

Ms. Goethals has been a tireless advocate within the state of Illinois for copy fee legislation. She also played a vital role in revising and editing the publication *Managing Health Information in Illinois* (MHII), which is the recognized resource for release of information in Illinois.

AHIMA congratulates Ms. Goethals for her legislative and regulatory efforts that helped to advance the HIM profession. We are honored by her efforts which make her the exemplary recipient of the 2017 Advocacy and Public Policy Triumph Award.
The **EDUCATOR AWARD** honors those who demonstrate excellence in preparing the next generation of professionals for their health information management (HIM) careers.

AHIMA is proud to select Jacqueline A. Moczygemba, MBA, RHIA, CCS, FAHIMA, as a recipient of the 2017 Educator Triumph Award.

Ms. Moczygemba is associate professor and chair of the HIM program at Texas State University in San Marcos, TX. She serves as a mentor and role model as she teaches and advises students. She is diligent and enthusiastic in both the online and on-campus master’s and bachelor’s programs. Ms. Moczygemba led the implementation of a new master’s in HIM in the fall of 2015, and created a comprehensive curriculum update for the bachelor’s program. She has recently received numerous awards for her teaching, including:

- “Legacy Award,” Texas Health Information Management Association, summer 2017;
- “Favorite Professor,” Alpha Chi National Honor Scholarship Society, Texas State Chapter, spring 2015;
- TEXAAN Faculty Advisor Recognition Award, Texas Academic Advising Network, spring 2015;
- “Favorite Professor,” Alpha Chi National Honor Scholarship Society, Texas State Chapter, spring 2014.

Ms. Moczygemba also contributes to HIM education at the national level through participation on numerous work groups:

- Appointed to the HIM Accreditation Council for the Commission on Accreditation for Health Informatics and Information Management Education, three-year appointment starting January 2017;
- Appointed to AHIMA’s Workforce Workgroup of the Council for Excellence in Education, spring 2017;
- Appointed to AHIMA’s Workforce Workgroup of the Council for Excellence in Education, fall 2013 through summer 2015.

Ms. Moczygemba contributes to HIM research and laboratory-based teaching of the field.

She is the sole author of eight non-refereed articles and is a co-author on 13 articles in refereed journal articles. She was a secondary investigator for Medical Identity Theft funded through the Foundation of Research and Education (FORE), in 2008.

AHIMA congratulates Ms. Moczygemba for making a lasting, positive difference in HIM education and in the lives of so many HIM students and colleagues, and is pleased to recognize her dedication with the 2017 Educator Triumph Award.
The EDUCATOR AWARD honors those who demonstrate excellence in preparing the next generation of professionals for their health information management (HIM) careers.

Alice M. Noblin, PhD, RHIA, CCS, has dedicated her career to providing innovative HIM education opportunities. She does this by setting high expectations for students, providing creative learning experiences using new teaching technologies, and mentoring graduates after they have entered the workforce. Dr. Noblin’s enduring commitment to lifelong learning and professional development are just two reasons why students hold her in high regard.

Dr. Noblin has served as program director and faculty member for the Health Informatics and Information Management program at University of Central Florida (UCF) for 11 years. During this time, the curriculum and practice sites were updated to ensure students possess the skills necessary for entering the ever-changing HIM workforce. Dr. Noblin is a prolific author and researcher, having been awarded the 2014 AHIMA Research Triumph Award and the 2016 UCF Research Incentive Award.

In addition, Dr. Noblin is actively involved in state and national HIM associations, having served in various positions for the Central Florida and Florida Health Information Management Associations, including roles as director and president. Always supportive of professional volunteerism, she ensures students participate in state and national conferences and engages them in association activities. Dr. Noblin was chair of the AHIMA International Student Recruitment Committee, is currently a member of the AHIMA Foundation Board of Directors, and serves as a CAHIIM program reviewer.

AHIMA congratulates Dr. Noblin for her dedication to HIM students and the profession and her continued commitment to educating future professionals in HIM. We are pleased to recognize her with the 2017 Educator Triumph Award.
The EMERGING LEADER Award honors those individuals who have made great strides and contributions to the HIM field, and have been employed over 5 years but less than 12 years from the date of entry into the HIM profession.

AHIMA is proud to award Diana M. Flood, MS, RHIA, as a recipient of the inaugural Emerging Leader Triumph Award. Ms. Flood’s nominators described her as a shining example of the leadership they hope to see in the future of Oklahoma and our organization. Ms. Flood has been an active member of her state board for seven years, working in a large variety of positions. She is a constant champion of the HIM field. Her positive attitude, integrity, creativity, and leadership inspires others to be excited about HIM and leaves them with the desire to dream big. Ms. Flood is a mentor for HIM students in her home state of Oklahoma. She has written articles for the Journal of AHIMA, volunteers with other organizations in her community, and still managed a 4.0 GPA while pursuing her graduate degree. She was the OkHIMA Outstanding Member of the Year in 2015.

Ms. Flood is a very talented, dedicated, and passionate person when it comes to her profession. She has a wide range of knowledge obtained not only through her continued education but also the wide range of jobs she has held since graduation. She has been an informatics management director, HIM manager, privacy/security officer, clinical consultant, and content lead publisher. Her nominators describe her as a person of many skills and talents.

Ms. Flood takes every opportunity to learn as much as she can in the HIM field and gives back to the profession by sharing what she knows by speaking and volunteering in various areas. Ms. Flood is always willing to put forth the extra effort and complete the additional work needed. AHIMA congratulates Ms. Flood for her emerging leadership and excellence in the HIM profession, and as a recipient of the 2017 Emerging Leader Triumph Award.
The EMERGING LEADER Award honors those individuals who have made great strides and contributions to the HIM field, and have been employed over 5 years but less than 12 years from the date of entry into the HIM profession.

Deanna M. Peterson, MHA, RHIA, CHPS, is an individual regarded by her peers and colleagues as a dedicated leader possessing outstanding talent and serving as a valuable asset to their organization. AHIMA is proud to present the inaugural 2017 Emerging Leader Triumph Award to her.

Since graduating from Saint Louis University in 2009, Ms. Peterson has risen to vice president at First Class Solutions, Inc. She established the long-term care division and serves as the Privacy Officer for her firm. She has served as interim director of HIM for multiple facilities and worked tirelessly to improve department operations and inspire others around her. Ms. Peterson has emerged as a well-respected leader by clients and employees alike. She is a role model for aspiring HIM professionals with her immense passion for the HIM profession.

On top of all her outstanding work, Ms. Peterson manages to stay very active at both national- and state-level organizations. Not only was she co-chair of the AHIMA Privacy and Security Practice Council, she has served on the board of the Missouri Health Information Management Association (MoHIMA), and as past president of the Eastern Missouri Health Information Management Association (eMHIMA). Ms. Peterson has presented at various HIM and Long Term Care associations. She also co-published “Healthcare Privacy Considerations of Body-Worn Cameras” found within the Journal of AHIMA.

AHIMA congratulates Ms. Peterson as a recipient of the 2017 Emerging Leader Triumph Award, for her positive difference in the HIM community and continuous dedication to the profession.
The **INNOVATION AWARD** honors those individuals, groups, or organizations focused on moving HI/HIM into the future of the healthcare and wellness industry. The Innovation Award honors persons or groups who have promoted important advances in areas related to HIM practice, quality data, standards development, patient safety, systems development, and any domain where visionary thinking has made a difference.

Sarah Shaver Laird, RHIA, CCS, is an innovator in the field of remote coding internships. Through her vision, she has removed the geographical barriers for students pursuing coding internship experiences while in educational programs.

Mrs. Laird is currently the senior director of corporate coding with Novant Health in Winston-Salem, North Carolina. When she started the project, she was told that it was not possible to create remote coding opportunities due to concerns about security with the electronic medical record. This did not stop her pursuit, however, of making her goal become a reality. As a great innovator, she persisted and rolled out the remote coding program to three CAHIIM accredited associate programs in North Carolina and has had great success. Mrs. Laird will expand this opportunity to additional CAHIIM accredited programs in NC (additional states in the future) and allow her team members who are alumni of the programs to assist with the internships.

Success as an innovator has not been rare for Mrs. Laird. Throughout her years of working with Novant Health, she has had many great accomplishments. She developed a Coding Academy to train newly credentialed coders without experience into qualified inpatient and outpatient surgery coders. Mrs. Laird developed the company’s first coding career ladder, to ensure career growth for her team members. Years before Epic install, she led teams that implemented a scanning workflow that scanned all medical records after discharge in order to create a remote work environment for the coding staff. This provided efficiency for the coding team members and additional clinical team members, to review the medical record from their location instead of the HIM department only. Mrs. Laird and her team successfully transitioned 13 acute care hospitals to Epic, and together they were able to return to normal coding production metrics within five business days after each Epic Go Live. Mrs. Laird achieved all these outcomes while maintaining low turnover rates each year, and achieving Press Ganey Tier 1 Employee Engagement scores for the past two years (2015 and 2016) the department was surveyed.

AHIMA congratulates Mrs. Laird as the recipient of the 2017 Innovation Triumph Award for her demonstrated focus on moving HIM into the future of healthcare, advancement of technological workflows, and for her excellent visionary thinking of the profession as an HIM professional.
The **INNOVATION AWARD** honors those individuals, groups, or organizations focused on moving HI/HIM into the future of the healthcare and wellness industry. The Innovation Award honors persons or groups who have promoted important advances in areas related to HIM practice, quality data, standards development, patient safety, systems development, and any domain where visionary thinking has made a difference.

AHIMA is proud to award Truman Medical Centers Health Information Management Department with the 2017 Innovation Triumph Award. The HIM Department at Truman Medical Centers (TMC) in Kansas City, MO designed an innovative IT solution to resolve the long-standing dilemma of patient referral delays. The health system had traditionally received patient referrals for TMC services from outside entities by e-mail, phone, or on paper, and these requests were not well-tracked. TMC leadership recognized a problem in the amount of time required to process these referrals and turned to the HIM department for help. The department worked tirelessly to implement a solution—which included finding and installing new software, training staff members and overseeing ongoing process improvements.

The HIM department managed transfer of the existing faxed/paper referrals to Cerner Direct Referrals, a cloud-based, web-enabled application in August 2015. This change allowed patients to be scheduled for appointments faster than ever before. From October 2015 to October 2016, the time needed for a referral to be assigned to a TMC resource for scheduling improved by 98.4 percent. Time for the entire referral process—from receipt of referral to report or note to the referring provider—improved by 68.5 percent. Data from the referral system is used to analyze causes of appointment delays and identify facilities that need improvements.

The HIM department at TMC found an innovative way to improve the continuum of care so patients can more quickly see other physicians and receive services to help them with their medical needs. AHIMA congratulates Truman Medical Centers Health Information Management Department for their outstanding innovations to the HIM profession, and as a recipient of the 2017 Innovation Triumph Award.
The INNOVATION AWARD honors those individuals, groups, or organizations focused on moving HI/HIM into the future of the healthcare and wellness industry. The Innovation Award honors persons or groups who have promoted important advances in areas related to HIM practice, quality data, standards development, patient safety, systems development, and any domain where visionary thinking has made a difference.

AHIMA is proud to select Elizabeth A. Whitmer, RHIT, AHDI-F, as a recipient of the 2017 Innovation Triumph Award. Mrs. Whitmer is a faculty member of the School of Health Professions, Health Information Technology Program at Florida Southwestern State College.

Mrs. Whitmer is focused on moving HIM into the future of the healthcare and wellness industry. It is with creativity and an inner desire to further learning that she promotes activities and programs that will make her students productive and successful employees. Current coders also advance forward increasing productivity and job satisfaction.

Mrs. Whitmer has created a helpful, innovative coding tool—the ROAR: Root Operation App Rescue application. It is available to students who often turn to their Smartphone to enhance their learning opportunities, and it enables students to expand their grasp of coding terminology of ICD-10-PCS. For example, the app helps students understand the difference between “excision” and “resection” in ICD-10-PCS. If the medical documentation states the entire organ was “excised,” the coder would be able to consult the app and know that the correct root operation term to be used is “resection.” ROAR takes into consideration the complexities of procedure coding and ICD-10-PCS. It is fast, simple and easy to use, and can be downloaded using Android Google Play and Apple iTunes.

AHIMA congratulates Mrs. Whitmer with the 2017 Innovation Triumph Award for her creative practice innovation and advancement of technology.

The ROAR app gives students a resource they can turn to quickly, in a format with which they feel comfortable. It reduces anxiety and provides future generations of coders an opportunity to be able to learn, reinforce, and subsequently produce accurate codes. Mrs. Whitmer recognizes the connection that accurate codes contribute to the quality and safety of delivery of health care services.

The tool is in use at Bryan University, where it has enhanced the speed and confidence of the coding students. This kind of creativity and innovation technology has produced demonstrable improvements in student performance.

AHIMA congratulates Mrs. Whitmer with the 2017 Innovation Triumph Award for her creative practice innovation and advancement of technology.
The **LEADERSHIP AWARD** honors those individuals or groups who have provided outstanding service as leaders; demonstrated ongoing leadership competency with the Association and the HIM profession; adhered to and advocated for the AHIMA Code of Ethics, and other appropriate codes of conduct; valued honesty, integrity and transparency and worked as team players/collaborators; been recognized as a qualified authority in the HIM profession; and presented a positive professional image for the Association and the profession.

The Leadership Award honors individuals who have provided outstanding service as leaders in the health information management field. The varied and sustained accomplishments of Mary Beth Haugen, MS, RHIA, merit recognition as such an outstanding leader.

Ms. Haugen possesses a track record as a visionary. Long before it became common, she saw the value of merging an HIM department with an information services department, leading to a successful integration. She has worked in numerous stages of software application implementation, ranging from launching a computerized provider order entry program to executing the first fully electronic health record (EHR) in a Denver-area facility in the early 2000s. Her HIM knowledge led her to restructure workflow in a hospital department, resulting in a decrease in accounts receivable of $10 million. She has served on a number of healthcare vendor user groups to advise future direction of technology builds. She continues to innovate by creating her own consulting firm, named in 2015 as one of Colorado's Companies to Watch.

Ms. Haugen is well known within the HIM community for her many contributions. She has served on the AHIMA Board of Directors and as an AHIMA Foundation Board Member. Her participation has aided numerous committees at the national and state levels, including the AHIMA HIMR and Leadership Institute Advisory Taskforces, the AHIMA EHR Practice Council, and served as Colorado HIMA delegate, treasurer and Education Committee co-chair.

Ms. Haugen shares her HIM knowledge and skills broadly. She served as adjunct faculty in the HIM programs of Regis University and the University of Cincinnati and site preceptor for HIM students. She is a nationally recognized speaker and author on the issues of information governance, the legal health record, the EHR, and leadership.

A highly respected colleague, Ms. Haugen’s leadership influence is felt across the HIM community. AHIMA congratulates Ms. Haugen as the recipient of the 2017 Leadership Triumph Award.
The LITERARY LEGACY AWARD honors those individuals or groups who have made significant contributions to the knowledge base of the health information management (HIM) field through an insightful recent publication, building on the enduring tradition of the Edna K. Huffman Literary Award.

Kathy Giannangelo, MA, RHIA, CCS, CPHIMS, FAHIMA, is one of two deserving individuals to receive the 2017 Literary Legacy Triumph Award. Ms. Giannangelo’s varied work experience has allowed her to gain insight into multiple clinical terminologies, vocabularies, code sets, and classification systems. Additionally, she is an accomplished professional with a focus on medical informatics and expertise in nosology, data standards, consulting, data mapping and HIM best practices. She has authored more than 40 literary citations throughout her career. Ms. Giannangelo has written chapters for and edited three versions of Healthcare Code Sets, Clinical Terminologies, and Classification Systems. She also has authored chapters for two commonly used textbooks to introduce HIM principles and concepts to students. A fellow HIM associate states, “Kathy has personified the vision of the health information management professional helping prepare our profession for the future.” This is relevant in her current work for SNOMED International as their map lead.

Ms. Giannangelo is a visionary leader in the field of clinical terminologies, classifications and data standards. Her insightful publications have undoubtedly advanced the knowledge of health informatics professionals and increased the visibility of the profession. Her works provide much visibility to the HIM profession and serve as tools to help in educating others.

AHIMA congratulates Ms. Giannangelo with the 2017 Literary Legacy Triumph Award for her outstanding literary contributions to the HIM Profession.
The LITERARY LEGACY AWARD honors those individuals or groups who have made significant contributions to the knowledge base of the health information management (HIM) field through an insightful recent publication, building on the enduring tradition of the Edna K. Huffman Literary Award.

Deborah J. Grider, CDIP, CCS-P, CPC, CPC-I, COC, CPC-P, CPMA, CEMC, is one of two deserving individuals to receive the 2017 Literary Legacy Triumph Award. She has written numerous publications for the American Medical Association (AMA) and is an Editorial Board contributor for the ICD-10 Monitor. She has advanced professional practice through development of a new theory by working with the AMA on a CPT Mobile Evaluation and Management Services application for iPhone and Android operating systems. Ms. Grider shows outstanding achievement and leadership in the coding and clinical documentation area of HIM. Ms. Grider has trained numerous physicians on ICD-10. She is a proven professional who has shown our work is vital to HIM and the healthcare community. Additional accolades include curriculum development for AAPC, Clarian Health partners IU Health, and the Indiana Hospital Association.

Ms. Grider is an Indiana Health Information Management past-president. Her nominators note that she exemplifies the AHIMA values of respect, excellence, leadership, and integrity while working as a consultant for most of her career.

AHIMA congratulates Ms. Grider; author, teacher, HIM professional, and speaker who leads the literary world in HIM as the recipient of the 2017 Literary Legacy Triumph Award.
The MENTOR AWARD honors individuals with long records of encouraging individuals to realize their full potential, or have helped them find ways to achieve their best.

AHIMA is proud to select Stefanie R. Brumberg, RHIA, as the recipient of the 2017 Mentor Triumph Award. She serves as the Christiana Care Corporate Director of Health Information Management Services.

Throughout her career, she has guided and motivated countless individuals to enter the HIM profession. Ms. Brumberg was a key advocate for the current HIM program at Delaware Technical Community College. She generously provides her time and resources toward imparting a rewarding experience to students during their clinical rotations and through daylong site visits to her facility. Ms. Brumberg has hosted at least one student for a clinical rotation over the span of her HIM career; 23 years and counting.

Ms. Brumberg continually cultivates and nourishes new talent. She was a visionary in the foundation of a coder training program at Christiana Care. This program enables Christiana Care staff and others outside of Christiana Care to train in an area that gives those interested in learning a new facet of healthcare the opportunity to grow into a lifelong career. She helped to design the course syllabus, select content, hired a training team and actively guided students throughout the learning process. This year-long training program is now in its second year with the first year of 12 students successfully working as coders at Christiana Care. Ms. Brumberg is an active volunteer at the state and local level, as well as nationally. She encourages and supports other HIM professionals to actively participate and volunteer.

Ms. Brumberg is an outstanding example of motivating talented individuals and fostering passion for the Health Information Management profession. AHIMA congratulates Ms. Brumberg, whose enthusiastic efforts continue to help others realize their full potential, and achieve their best. Congratulations on being the 2017 Mentor Triumph Award recipient and a mentor to HIM professionals throughout the country.
The **RESEARCH AWARD** honors those individuals who have made an outstanding contribution to original and applied HIM research.

AHIMA is honored to award Varadraj Prabhu Gurupur, PhD, MS, RHIA, with the 2017 Research Triumph Award. Dr. Gurupur’s area of research is improving the data science and knowledge management aspects of decision support systems for healthcare and education. He has more than 85 publications that include journal articles, conference papers, abstracts, published reviews, posters, book chapters and special issues with reputable journals. Dr. Gurupur received his PhD in computer engineering in 2010 and a Masters of Science in Computer Science in 2005 from the University of Alabama at Birmingham. He also received his RHIA certification in 2014.

Dr. Gurupur has held several positions associated with data processing and HIT with the University of Alabama at Birmingham Hospital and School of Medicine between the years 2005 and 2011. His innovation has helped improve the science associated with decision support for healthcare delivery. Many of his innovations are based on the problems associated with patient data that he perceived while working as a data manager for the Alzheimer’s disease research center with the University of Alabama at Birmingham. Last year, he received the Literary Award from the Florida Health Information Management Association (FHIMA). Since 2014, Dr. Gurupur has served as assistant professor with the department of health management and informatics at the University of Central Florida.

Dr. Gurupur is a highly accomplished HIM and health informatics researcher. He has been awarded several funded grants and has submitted patent applications on innovative processes that intend to improve healthcare delivery. He has made significant contributions to the body of research, supporting key issues in health information management and health informatics in the realm of electronic medical records and patient education support as well as work on student learning outcomes in the HIM field.

Dr. Gurupur is raising recognition on the expansion of HIM research, coupled with technology which truly represents the collaborative science of health informatics and information management. AHIMA congratulates Dr. Gurupur for his outstanding contributions in research to the HIM profession.
The **RISING STAR** Award honors those individuals who are up and coming in the HIM field, and have been employed for five years or less from the date of entry into the HIM profession.

Karen D. Reynolds, MBA, RHIA, embodies the spirit of AHIMA and the purpose behind AHIMA’s drive for excellence, and is a leading source of “HIM Knowledge” for future leaders. In five short years, Ms. Reynolds has already gathered an impressive resume and served in a variety of top-leadership roles, allowing her to stand out and shine among her fellow colleagues.

From obtaining her MBA, to taking on the role of Corporate Clinical Informatics Manager—HIM for the Truman Medical Centers, Ms. Reynolds is never one to shy away from an opportunity. She has demonstrated this through the success of Truman’s patient portal, the implementation of a new ROI platform, completing the nine-month certificate in Health Care Leadership, as well as winning the coveted role of president of KcHIMA. Whenever she sees an occasion for improvement, she eagerly meets the challenges head on.

Ms. Reynolds’ exuberant enthusiasm for the healthcare profession does not end with her professional work at Truman Medical Centers. She continues to demonstrate voluntary effort every chance she has, whether she is serving as the project search mentor for high school students, or as a mentor to HIM students during their professional practice experience. She has been instrumental in developing and contributing to mentorship programs for local schools and applies an interactive approach; encouraging students to think on their feet and to apply their knowledge gained, from the classroom to the healthcare setting.

It is undeniable that Ms. Reynolds’ leadership, vision, creativity, and passion for the field, commitment to service and education, and her desire for mentoring future HIM professionals are just a few key characteristics that have made her successful and worthy to be the recipient of AHIMA’s 2017 Rising Star Triumph Award.
The **STUDENT AWARD** recognizes and encourages individuals who are the best of the fresh new talent being trained in CAHIIM-accredited or AHIMA-approved coding programs nationwide.

Marques Edgar Grant is a worthy recipient of the 2017 Student Triumph Award for his demonstrated professionalism, competence, and academic accomplishments.

A student at Florida A&M University (FAMU), Mr. Grant is the recipient of numerous academic awards, including FAMU’s Outstanding HIM Student Award, the Florida Health Information Management Association (FHIMA) Outstanding Student Award, and an academic scholarship from the AHIMA Foundation. Mr. Grant serves as a member of FAMU’s HIM Advisory Committee and as president of the HIM student association. His teachers describe him as well-organized, focused, and results-oriented, as well as one who spurs fellow students to higher levels of engagement by his intelligent and probing questions.

He has actively engaged with professional associations, and works with the Northwest FHIMA Board of Directors as its student liaison and with FHIMA as a student member and assistant at its annual convention. Mr. Grant is an AHIMA student member and advocated for the HIM profession as part of FHIMA’s Hill Day.

Mr. Grant participates in numerous health-related activities on campus and in the community, including HIM program recruitment. At health fairs, he has promoted consumer awareness of the personal health record, patient rights, HIPAA, and other HIM-related initiatives. He holds leadership roles in numerous academic honor societies.

As one nominator stated: “With the passion and commitment he has displayed as a student, Marques promises to be a rising star in the health informatics and information management profession.” Because of his continuous efforts that make a positive impact on others, AHIMA congratulates Mr. Grant with the 2017 Student Triumph Award.
The **STUDENT AWARD** recognizes and encourages individuals who are the best of the fresh new talent being trained in CAHIM-accredited or AHIMA-approved coding programs nationwide.

The demonstrated leadership, academic accomplishments, and contributions of Alexa Kilfoy fully meet the criteria as a recipient of the 2017 Student Triumph Award.

A student at Saint Louis University, Ms. Kilfoy is passionate about the field of health information management (HIM). She serves as executive vice president of the HIM student organization, devising ways to enhance the student group and market it as well as the HIM program to all students as an education and career path. She also serves as a mentor to transfer students, encouraging them to consider an HIM career. When not busy planning themed organization meetings and fundraising activities, she serves as a member of the university-wide Senior Experience Committee, leadership chair of her sorority, and member of the local chapter of a national service fraternity.

Ms. Kilfoy recognizes the value of professional membership. She is an active and enthusiastic member of AHIMA’s Student Advisory Council (SAC), where she participated in planning and presenting at Student Academy at the AHIMA 2016 Convention and Exhibit and advocated for the HIM profession as part of AHIMA’s Advocacy Summit. She is a member of her local and state associations, attending meetings and volunteering for registration at events.

Ms. Kilfoy possess a stellar academic record and was acknowledged with the Elmo and Jean Poole Award, awarded to one student annually in recognition of their strong academic performance, leadership, and service in the HIM field. She completed her Professional Practice experience with a physician practice that expects much from HIM interns. Her supervisor reported that Ms. Kilfoy exceeded expectations and contributed greatly to the practice.

As one nominator stated: “Alexa strives to make a difference in healthcare through the HIM perspective.” For her continuous efforts in striving for excellence, AHIMA congratulates Ms. Kilfoy as the recipient of the 2017 Student Triumph Award.
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Since their inception in 1994, the AHIMA Triumph Awards have honored those professionals responsible for advancing the field of health information management (HIM). Each year, AHIMA members nominate those individuals or groups who have demonstrated extraordinary leadership, volunteerism, and talent. The recipients are presented at the AHIMA Convention and Exhibit. Submit a nomination for yourself or an individual or group that displays excellence, dedication, and service to the HIM profession.

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* Community Service
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View the descriptions, qualifications, and the application at ahima.org/triumphawards.
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