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AHIMA Presents Grace Award to SCL Health

LOS ANGELES – Oct. 9, 2017 – SCL Health is being honored as this year’s prestigious [American Health Information Management Association](#) (AHIMA) Grace Award recipient. SCL Health was presented with the AHIMA Grace Award at the association’s 89th Annual Convention & Exhibit in Los Angeles.

Named for AHIMA’s founder Grace Whiting Myers, the Grace Award honors healthcare delivery organizations that demonstrate outstanding and innovative approaches to using health information management (HIM) as a way to deliver high-quality care to patients. AHIMA has presented the award since 2012.

“It is an honor and we are grateful to receive this wonderful recognition of the AHIMA Grace Award,” said David C. Pecoraro, SCL Health, senior vice president and chief information officer. “The leadership and staff of health information management have continuously embraced outstanding management, state-of-the-art technology, and other best practices in serving our health system and its patients, families and fellow associates.”

Pecoraro accepted the award today.

The organization was recognized for its implementation of a number of programs including:

- The hiring of a data scientist-type employee and enhanced skill sets of new HIM data analysts as part of a data visualization program across the organization to meet various data needs, including requirements for the “Meaningful Use” EHR incentive program, transitions of care objectives, clinical documentation integrity initiatives, and coding accounts receivable information. Enhancing the skill sets of the new data analysts made the data collected more actionable and saved time.
- The creation and chairing of an interdisciplinary health data exchange advisory committee, advancing organizational health information exchange and interoperability

efforts. This is part of an overall effort to promote enterprise-wide data stewardship and organizational data literacy.

- The creation of the first Colorado system to offer patients immediate access to their provider from home with physician video visits.

SCL Health is a faith-based, nonprofit healthcare organization offering comprehensive, coordinated care through multiple care settings including hospitals, physician clinics, home health care, hospice, mental health care and safety-net services in three states: Colorado, Kansas and Montana.

“SCL has shown leadership and innovation in the areas of informatics and analytics as well as patient empowerment,” said AHIMA interim CEO Pamela Lane, MS, RHIA. “These are crucial areas of the AHIMA strategy that will move the profession into the future. We congratulate SCL and encourage our members to learn from their successes.”

Award evaluation criteria included how organizations are applying the initiatives outlined in the AHIMA strategic objectives and on the results of these focus areas, including taking leadership roles in informatics, data analytics, information governance, and consumer education, while creating health intelligence that can be used to lower costs and improve patient care.

AHIMA also recognized the National Institutes of Health Clinical Center (NIHCC) with an honorable mention. A federally funded research hospital, the NIHCC has worked closely with patients to educate them about the use of patient portals, established HIM professionals in leadership roles, implemented information governance to support its clinical research program, and changed processes to make all of its medical record documentation available electronically.

This year's Grace Award committee includes: Tracie Allen, MS, RHIA, FACHE, MAJ, MS, US Army, Chief, Mission Support, United States Transportation Command; Elizabeth H. Curtis, MA, RHIA, CHPS, FAHIMA, Administrative Director, The Ohio State University Wexner Medical Center; Mark Dietz, RHIA, President, Dietz Consulting; Diane E. Ferry, RHIA, MS, President/CEO, Star-Med, LLC; Seth J Katz, RHIA, MPH, Associate Administrator, Information Management, Truman Medical Centers; Stephanie J. Luthi-Terry, MA, RHIA, CHPS, FAHIMA, Director, Enterprise HIM Integration/eHIM Business Solutions, Health Information Management, Allina Health; Kyle McElroy, RHIA, MS-HSA, AVP Health Information Management, Steward Health Care; Steven J. Steindel, PhD, FACMI; Nicole F. Walker, RHIA, Associate Director, Health Information Management, MD Anderson Cancer Center; and DeGloria S. Williams, RHIA, Director of Health Information Management, Children's Medical Center of Dallas.

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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