



news

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AHIMA Triumph Awards Salute Excellence in Health Information Management

Ceremony honors recipients for innovation, service, leadership

LOS ANGELES – Oct. 9, 2017 – 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 89th Annual Convention and Exhibit in Los Angeles.

"The Triumph Awards recognize individuals who have made exceptional contributions to the health information management profession," said AHIMA interim CEO Pamela Lane, MS, RHIA. "Their work reflects the best of our industry, and AHIMA is proud to tell their stories."

Distinguished Member Award

Angela C. Kennedy, EdD, MBA, RHIA, is the 2017 recipient of AHIMA's highest honor, the Distinguished Member Award. An innovative teacher, researcher, and volunteer, Kennedy is a past president of AHIMA. Kennedy was also appointed to the Office of the National Coordinator's Health IT Standards Committee and Consumer Task Force. She is well known for partnering with her daughter, Gracie, in a national campaign to raise awareness for personal health information.

Advocacy and Public Policy Award

Colleen A. Goethals, MS, RHIA, FAHIMA, received the Advocacy and Public Policy Award. Goethals is employed by R1 RCM, Inc. as director of HIM at Ascension Columbia St. Mary's in Milwaukee, WI, and is an independent HIM consultant. Having served as a member of the AHIMA Board of Directors and as a member of AHIMA's Advocacy and Policy Council, she also played a vital role in revising and editing the publication *Managing Health Information in Illinois*.

Educator Award

Jacqueline A. Moczygemba, MBA, RHIA, CCS, FAHIMA, received the Educator Award. Moczygemba is associate professor and chair of the HIM program at Texas State University in San Marcos, TX. She led the implementation of a new master's program in HIM program in 2015 and created a comprehensive curriculum for the bachelor's program. She serves on the Commission on Accreditation for Health Informatics and Information Management Education's (CAHIIM) HIM Accreditation Council.

Alice M. Noblin, PhD, RHIA, CCS, also received the Educator Award. Noblin is program director and faculty member for the health informatics and information management program at University of Central Florida. She is a prolific author and researcher who received the 2014 AHIMA Research Triumph Award and the 2016 UCF Research Incentive Award. She is a member of the AHIMA Foundation Board of Directors and serves as a CAHIIM program reviewer.

Emerging Leader Award

Diana M. Flood, MS, RHIA, is honored with the Emerging Leader Award. Flood has been an active member of the Oklahoma Health Information Management Association (OKHIMA) board for seven years and is a mentor to HIM students. She has written articles for the *Journal of AHIMA*, volunteers with other organizations in her community, and earned a 4.0 GPA while pursuing her graduate degree. She has been an informatics management director, HIM manager, privacy/security officer and clinical consultant.

Deanna M. Peterson, MHA, RHIA, CHPS, also received the Emerging Leader Award. Peterson is vice president at First Class Solutions, Inc. She established the long-term care division and serves as the privacy officer for her firm. She was co-chair of the AHIMA Privacy and Security Practice Council and has served on the board of the Missouri HIMA and as past president of the Eastern Missouri HIMA.

Innovation Award

Three Innovation Awards were announced.

Sarah Shaver Laird, RHIA, CCS, is senior director of corporate coding with Novant Health in Winston-Salem, NC. Laird created a remote coding program for three CAHIIM-accredited associate degree programs, developed a coding academy to train newly credentialed coders and developed the company's first coding career ladder. She and her team successfully transitioned 13 hospitals to an EHR system and were able to return to normal coding production metrics within five business days after each launch.

The **HIM Department at Truman Medical Centers** in Kansas City, MO, designed an innovative IT solution to resolve the long-standing dilemma of patient referral delays. The department managed transfer of the existing faxed/paper referrals to a cloud-based, web-enabled application, which allowed patients to be scheduled for appointments more quickly. Data from the referral system is used to analyze causes of appointment delays and identify facilities that need improvements.

Elizabeth A. Whitmer, RHIT, AHDI-F, is a faculty member of the School of Health Professions, Health Information Technology Program at Florida Southwestern State College. She has created an innovative coding tool for students to expand their grasp of coding terminology of ICD-10-PCS. The tool is in use at Bryan University, where it has enhanced the speed and confidence of coding students.

Leadership Award

Mary Beth Haugen, MS, RHIA, received the Leadership Award. Haugen 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. She continues to innovate with her own consulting firm, named in 2015 as one of Colorado's Companies to Watch. She has served on the AHIMA Board of Directors and as an AHIMA Foundation Board Member.

Literary Legacy Award

Two individuals received the Literary Legacy Award.

Kathy Giannangelo, MA, RHIA, CCS, CPHIMS, FAHIMA, is a leader in the field of clinical terminologies, classifications, and data standards. Giannangelo is also an expert in medical informatics and nosology, data standards, consulting, data mapping and HIM best practices. As map lead at the International Health Terminology Standards Development Organisation, she provides expertise, support and consensus for the development, review and maintenance of mappings between SNOMED CT and other code systems.

Deborah J. Grider, CDIP, CCS-P, CPC, CPC-I, COC, CPC-P, CPMA, CEMC, is an author, teacher, HIM professional, and speaker with expertise in coding and clinical documentation. Grider has written numerous publications for the American Medical Association (AMA) and is an editorial board contributor for *ICD-10 Monitor*. She has worked with the AMA on a CPT Evaluation and Management Services app for mobile platforms. She has trained physicians in ICD-10 and has developed curriculum for numerous organizations. She is a past president of the Indiana HIMA.

Mentor Award

Stefanie R. Brumberg, RHIA, is the recipient of the Mentor Award. Brumberg is the Christiana Care corporate director of HIM services. She is a strong advocate for HIM students and has hosted at least one student for a clinical rotation each year for 23 years. She founded a coder training program at Christiana Care that is now in its second year and is an active volunteer at the local, state and national levels.

Research Award

Varadraj Prabhu Gurupur, PhD, MS, RHIA, received the Research Award. Gurupur is an assistant professor in the department of health management and informatics at the University of Central Florida. He has a particular interest in decision support and 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.

Rising Star Award

Karen D. Reynolds, MBA, RHIA, received the Rising Star Award. Reynolds, who is corporate clinical informatics manager—HIM at Truman Medical Centers, has demonstrated excellence in projects like the success of Truman's patient portal, the implementation of a new release of information platform, and completing a nine-month certificate in healthcare leadership. She is president of the Kansas City HIMA and is an enthusiastic mentor to students.

Student Award

Two individuals are recognized with the Student Award.

Marques Edgar Grant, a student at Florida A&M University, has received numerous academic awards and serves as president of the school's HIM student organization. He works with the Northwest FHIMA Board of Directors as student liaison and with the Florida HIMA as a student member. He has promoted HIM at health fairs and at health-related activities on campus and holds leadership roles in numerous academic societies.

Alexa Kilfoy, a student at Saint Louis University, is executive vice president of the HIM student organization and as a member of the university-wide Senior Experience Committee. She is a member of AHIMA's Student Advisory Council and received an award recognizing her strong academic performance, leadership and service in the HIM field.

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