



**news**

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## **FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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## **\$7 Million Award to Create New Career Opportunities through Apprenticeships**

*AHIMA Foundation, AHA, AMIA, NCHL create Healthcare Workforce Consortium to serve as intermediary for healthcare apprenticeships*

**CHICAGO – October 7, 2016** – The American Health Information Management Association (AHIMA) Foundation, American Hospital Association (AHA), American Medical Informatics Association (AMIA), and the National Center for Healthcare Leadership (NCHL) have joined together to form the Healthcare Workforce Consortium (HWC), which has received notification of a \$7.1 million award from the U.S. Department of Labor's Employment & Training Administration that positions the HWC as the Healthcare Sector Intermediary for apprenticeships.

The U.S. Department of Labor is awarding more than \$20.4 million in contract awards to 14 national industry intermediaries and national equity partners to expand apprenticeship opportunities across the U.S. Part of a historic investment in apprenticeship, the contracts will support the growth of apprenticeship programs in various industries, including health informatics, health information management, health information technology and other healthcare professions, construction, transportation and logistics, manufacturing, and communications technology, and they will support increasing demographic diversity and inclusion in apprenticeship among traditionally underrepresented populations.

"We are thrilled to be recognized as a national leader in this area. The AHIMA Foundation strongly believes that this ApprenticeshipUSA initiative and the American Apprenticeship Initiative will serve as a catalyst to create job opportunities and career pathways for those entering into and those seeking career advancement in all healthcare professions," said William Rudman, PhD, RHIA, executive director of the AHIMA Foundation.

"The AHA is honored to join the Healthcare Workforce Consortium to advance our mission of supporting the core strength of our hospitals and health systems – the people – who form a community of talented, dedicated individuals who care for patients' health and wellness on a daily basis. Registered Apprenticeships benefit the entire health care field by offering a new path for training the next generation of health care professionals," said Maureen Swick, RN,

PhD, senior vice president, nursing and chief nursing officer, AHA; and chief executive officer, AONE.

“The HWC has the unique ability to ensure programmatic success of this apprenticeship initiative with our strong understanding of workforce needs, labor markets, and curricula development and credentialing/certification along with our wide-reaching networks that cut across healthcare occupations and industry and provider settings,” said Doug Fridsma, MD, PhD, FACP, FACMI, president and CEO of AMIA.

“Healthcare leaders are increasingly recognizing the critical role health systems can and should play in the economic vitality of the communities they serve,” said Andy Garman, PsyD, CEO of NCHL and professor of health systems management, Rush University. “Apprenticeships can be a very effective component of a health system’s human resource strategy, and we are excited to support this important national effort.”

Changes in technology, social constructs and values, and legislation and regulatory factors in the U.S. have redefined what health professionals do, where they work, and how they work. The Healthcare Sector Intermediary initiative will help address the growing gap between academic training and competencies and the skills needed to ensure workforce readiness. Apprenticeship is a way for employers to build the talent they need to compete and grow and for workers to gain the skills and credentials that put them on the path to successful careers.

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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 high quality research, best practices and effective standards in health information and to actively contributing to the development and advancement of health information professionals worldwide. AHIMA’s enduring goal is quality healthcare through quality information. [www.ahima.org](http://www.ahima.org)

#### About the AHIMA Foundation

Established in 1962, the AHIMA Foundation is a 501(c)(3) philanthropic affiliate of AHIMA. The Foundation envisions the future of healthcare, and prepares for that future with investments in research, workforce development, education, and innovative strategies that advance the HIM profession and, ultimately, better serve the healthcare community. The Foundation focuses on readying the HIM professionals of today to be the leaders of tomorrow. They operate under the values of philanthropy, innovation, leadership and integrity and strive to be recognized for excellence in health information leadership and research for the healthcare industry and the public. [www.ahimafoundation.org](http://www.ahimafoundation.org)

#### About the AHA

The AHA is a not-for-profit association of health care provider organizations and individuals that are committed to the improvement of health in their communities. The AHA is the national advocate for its members, which include nearly 5,000 hospitals, health care systems, networks and other providers of care. Founded in 1898, the AHA provides education for health care

leaders and is a source of information on health care issues and trends. For more information, visit the website at [www.aha.org](http://www.aha.org).

#### About AMIA

AMIA, the leading professional association for informatics professionals, is the center of action for 5,200 informatics professionals from more than 65 countries. As the voice of the nation's top biomedical and health informatics professionals, AMIA and its members play a leading role in assessing the effect of health innovations on health policy, and advancing the field of informatics. AMIA actively supports five domains in informatics: translational bioinformatics, clinical research informatics, clinical informatics, consumer health informatics, and public health informatics.

#### About the NCHL

Established in 2001, the non-profit National Center for Healthcare Leadership (NCHL) has a mission to improve health by strengthening healthcare leadership. It pursues this mission by partnering with health systems and universities to identify leadership development priorities and pursue a collaborative agenda supporting evidence-based leadership development and talent management practices. [www.nchl.org](http://www.nchl.org)