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**For more information, please contact:**

Bridget Stratton  
Public Relations  
312-233-1097

[bridget.stratton@ahima.org](mailto:bridget.stratton@ahima.org)

## **AHIMA Receives Funding to Boost International Education, Promote Profession**

*Program with U.S. Department of Commerce will help  
to strengthen standards worldwide*

CHICAGO – Oct. 10, 2013 – New funding from the federal government will help the American Health Information Management Association (AHIMA) to develop programs to increase health information management and technology standards and education worldwide.

The funding from the U.S. Department of Commerce, which AHIMA will match, will allow AHIMA to recruit international students to U.S. universities and to promote curriculum standards for health information education. It also will let AHIMA develop content that can be applied domestically as well as globally and develop an infrastructure that allows online education to further foster the HIM profession.

“Our goal is to position the United States as the global leader in health information management and technology curriculum and education,” said AHIMA CEO Lynne Thomas Gordon, MBA, RHIA, CAE, FACHE, FAHIMA. “The industry is expanding rapidly throughout the world, and having properly trained professionals is crucial to maintaining the integrity of health information, which will be increasingly transported and shared through advances in health technology.”

AHIMA was selected to participate in the International Trade Administration’s (ITA) Market Development Cooperator Program (MDCP), which is designed to increase the competitiveness of U.S. organizations by developing market demand for U.S. products and services globally.

“Acknowledgement of AHIMA’s expertise by the Department of Commerce reaffirms the significance of AHIMA’s training and credentials, and the value of HIM education both domestically and internationally,” said Thomas Gordon. “This opportunity positions AHIMA as a thought leader on a global scale and will help to create recognition of the profession worldwide.” While promoting education standards in other countries, the agreement will allow AHIMA to recruit international students to U.S. universities, helping those institutions expand their HIM programs and fund new opportunities. Following graduation, students will create and enforce high standards of practice, and elevate the health information profession and workforce within their home countries.

The arrangement falls into step with the association’s recent [recognition by the Department of Labor](#), which certified AHIMA’s National Guidelines for Apprenticeship Standards for HIM and

technology professionals. Both serve to propel the HIM profession and to define the needs of the future healthcare workforce.

AHIMA joins six other recipients of the 2013 MDCP awards, which represent various industries and strategies for increasing exports. The MDCP supports nonprofit industry groups such as associations and chambers of commerce by providing financial and technical assistance through an ongoing cooperative agreement. Research conducted by the ITA stresses the important role that exports play in catalyzing America's near-and long-term economic growth, resulting in new job opportunities being created.

For more information about the Market Development Cooperator Program, visit [www.trade.gov/mdcp](http://www.trade.gov/mdcp).

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### **About AHIMA**

Celebrating its 85<sup>th</sup> anniversary this year, AHIMA represents more than 67,000 educated health information management 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 International Trade Administration**

The International Trade Administration (ITA) is the premier resource for American companies competing in the global marketplace. ITA has 2,400 employees assisting U.S. exporters in more than 100 U.S. cities and 70 countries worldwide. For more information on ITA visit [www.trade.gov](http://www.trade.gov).