2018
TRIUMPH AWARDS
HONORING THOSE WHO MAKE A DIFFERENCE
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 2018 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 2018 AHIMA Triumph Awards recipients and nominees!
AHIMA gratefully acknowledges the generous support of:

![3M Science. Applied to Life.™](image)

2018 AHIMA TRIUMPH AWARDS NOMINEES:

Cassi L. Birnbaum, MS, RHIA, CPHQ, FAHIMA
Kelly Cooper, RHIT, CCS
Carla K. Dirkschneider, MS, RHIA
Florida Health Information Management Association (FHIMA)
Susan L. Foster, MBA, RHIA, CHPS
Heather N. Hunn, RHIA
Diana R. Lindo, MM, RHIT, CCS, CDIP
Tressa A. Lyon, RHIT
Barbara J. Manor, MA, RHIA, CHDA, FAHIMA
Wanda G. McKnight, RHIT, CAE
Teresa T. Neal, MHA, RHIA
Vicki N. Reynolds, RHIT
Lauren Kidder Savant, RHIA
Cortnie R. Simmons, MHA, RHIA, CCS, CDIP, PMP, FAHIMA
Corinne M. Smith, MBA, RHIA, CCS, CDIP, CHDA

SPECIAL THANKS TO THE 2018 AHIMA TRIUMPH AWARDS COMMITTEE:

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JoAnn V. Coleman, MPA, CAE
Marilyn K. Render

To find out more about the AHIMA Triumph Awards, visit our website at www.ahima.org/about/recognition.

Nominations are due June 3, 2019
The **DISTINGUISHED MEMBER AWARD** is AHIMA's highest honor. 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.

Creative, innovative, strategic, sincere, and supportive are words used most frequently to describe this year’s AHIMA Distinguished Member. During his 40 plus year career, this year’s Distinguished Member applied his leadership, wisdom, and expertise to help propel the health information management (HIM) profession and its membership forward. AHIMA is honored to posthumously present the 2018 Distinguished Member Triumph Award to Mark S. Dietz, RHIA.

As a leader, Mr. Dietz was on the frontline as a change agent, leading the charge and helping others to understand the changes and challenges of the ever-dynamic healthcare industry and HIM profession. His insightful leadership helped others understand how to turn changes and challenges into meaningful, useful, and fruitful opportunities across the HIM and healthcare industry. In recognition of his outstanding leadership, Dietz received the 2012 AHIMA Leadership Triumph Award.

As an active and enthusiastic volunteer, Mr. Dietz dedicated countless hours of service to the HIM profession. He served in numerous positions at the local, state, and national levels, including service on several AHIMA committees, the AHIMA Board of Directors, and as a member of the AHIMA Foundation Board of Directors. In 2004, he was the recipient of the Minnesota Health Information Management Association (MHIMA) Distinguished Member Award.

A sought-after speaker, Mr. Dietz presented both nationally and internationally on a variety of HIM and healthcare finance topics. He has presented more than 100 presentations to HIM and allied health professionals, physicians/clinicians, and consumers including presentations in Australia, Canada, China, and the United Arab Emirates.

As a mentor, he was devoted to the development of the next generation of HIM professionals. His commitment to lifelong learning and collaborative spirit were demonstrated through his willingness to serve on the Advisory Boards of multiple colleges and universities, as well as his service as a guest lecturer and adjunct faculty. Mr. Dietz generously shared his time and talents with students and HIM professionals, always offering an open door and an encouraging word.

Mark S. Dietz, RHIA passed away late May of this year, but his enthusiasm and passion has left a lasting imprint on the HIM profession and the lives of those he touched. Thank you for your extraordinary service to AHIMA.
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 Tracy A. Elmer, RHIA, as the recipient of the 2018 Advocacy and Public Policy Triumph Award. Ms. Elmer is currently employed by Rady Children’s Hospital—San Diego—the largest children’s hospital in California—as director, Clinical Information Systems, Epic Clinical Education and Training, and Biomed.

Serving as a tireless veteran volunteer and advocate for the HIM profession, Ms. Elmer continues to be at the forefront of HIM advocacy and public policy. Currently serving in her second year as chair of AHIMA’s Advocacy and Policy Council, she was instrumental in the development of AHIMA 2018 Public Policy Principles, which serve as a roadmap for federal and state policy issues affecting the HIM profession. Ms. Elmer was one of the original “champions” of AHIMA’s electronic health records (EHR) e-HIM initiatives, and served on AHIMA’s EHR Practice Council. She has participated in the AHIMA Advocacy Summit and Annual Hill Day events for eight years.

As president and board member for the California Health Information Association (CHIA), she was involved with the ICD-10 grassroots advocacy movement. As an AHIMA delegate, she shared AHIMA’s vision and initiatives with the CHIA membership and worked diligently to increase members’ awareness of social media platforms such as Twitter, YouTube, Facebook, and LinkedIn, and was the key driver to CHIA’s social media program. With many tweets sent to legislators and others, she quickly became known as CHIA’s Tweet Master and HIM Social Media Queen.

Ms. Elmer actively contributes to the growth and success of her organization through volunteering for the profession with her outcome-driven leadership. Her key to success has been her ability to bring together diverse stakeholders to enable close collaboration with HIM, clinical, and operational partners and lead technology transformation initiatives that support the healthcare industry.

Her opinions and judgment continue to be highly respected by her peers at the national, state, and local levels. As a valued member of AHIMA, she is a 2011 recipient of AHIMA’s e-HIM Triumph Award and received the CHIA 2016 Distinguished Member Award.

AHIMA congratulates Tracy A. Elmer, RHIA, for her advocacy and public policy efforts that have helped to advance the HIM profession. Her efforts make her the exemplary recipient of the 2018 Advocacy and Public Policy Triumph Award.
AHIMA is proud to select Mariruth (Mari) Petrik, MBA, RHIA, CCS, CCS-P, as the recipient of the 2018 Educator Triumph Award. She is currently a professor at Moraine Valley Community College in Palos Hills, IL. For the past 16 years, Ms. Petrik has spent countless hours working within the HIT program at Moraine Valley Community College. She developed and teaches a capstone course to help students not only pass the RHIT exam, but also score consistently above the national exam average. In addition to her accomplishments at Moraine Valley, Ms. Petrik continues her involvement with graduates as a mentor and an advocate. She encourages volunteerism within the profession and serves on a variety of committees herself.

Ms. Petrik is very active in national, state, and regional HIM organizations. She has served in multiple leadership positions within the Illinois Health Information Management Association (ILHIMA) as committee chair, delegate, and president. She has been a director and president for the Chicago Area Health Information Management Association (CAHIMA), as well as the recipient of their 2015 Distinguished Member Award.

Ms. Petrik has a special interest in coding and has served on the CCS Job Analysis Task Force and the ICD-10-CM/PCS Academic Transition Workgroup for AHIMA. She was actively involved in training others in ICD-10-CM and PCS at the local, state, and national levels in preparation for the transition.

Her professional colleague indicates, “Mari demonstrates outstanding ethical and professional leadership skills, serving as an example, role model, and mentor to others.” Her former student commented, “Professor Petrik gives us the information one step at a time, so that we can build a foundation of marketable skills we will need in the job market.”

AHIMA congratulates Mari Petrik, MBA, RHIA, CCS, CCS-P, for making a positive difference in HIM education and our professional community. We recognize her commitment to the HIM profession and her students and are pleased to present her with the 2018 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 more than five years but less than 10 years from the date of entry into the HIM profession.

AHIMA is proud to present the 2018 Emerging Leader Triumph Award to Davin D. Foster, RHIT. Mr. Foster started his HIM career in 2009 as a medical records clerk. In 2012, he progressed to a coding specialist and then obtained his associate’s degree in HIT from Crowder College, achieving his RHIT certification in 2014. He quickly excelled as a leader in the HIM profession while at the same time serving in various volunteer leadership positions at the regional and state level in Missouri.

After obtaining his RHIT, Mr. Foster expanded his career serving as director of HIM/privacy officer in various healthcare organizations. In these positions, he championed the transition to ICD-10, developed and implemented clinical documentation improvement processes, led a team implementing a Meditech EMR upgrade, provided facility-wide education and oversight of privacy practices and audits, created coding productivity standards, and developed standard workflows to be used with the EMR software in clinical and nonclinical departments.

He was awarded the Elsevier HIM ALL-STAR award in September 2014. In June 2016, Mr. Foster joined Coffeyville Regional Medical Center (Kansas) as the director of HIM/privacy officer, and in February 2017, he graduated from Leadership Coffeyville, a local leadership development program. In June of 2018, he accepted the role of compliance officer at the Coffeyville Regional Medical Center.

While advancing in his professional career, Mr. Foster also embraced several volunteer opportunities in the Missouri Health Information Management Association (MoHIMA) and the regional group, the Ozark Area HIM Association (OAHIMA). He helped organize and present educational events for OAHIMA and will serve as director of education in 2019–20. His “can-do” attitude and positive influence were evident in his effective leadership as the MoHIMA chairperson of the 2018 joint meeting with the Illinois Health Information Management Association (ILHIMA). In support of student members within each state, Mr. Foster was instrumental in developing and implementing a fundraiser to cover costs of student attendance at the joint MoHIMA/ILHIMA meeting. In April 2018, he was awarded the MoHIMA “Rising Star” Award. As noted by a colleague in his letter of support, “Davin is a truly dedicated HIM professional that has never waived from his commitment to HIM. He has accomplished a great deal in a very short period of time.”

AHIMA congratulates Davin D. Foster, RHIT, with the 2018 Emerging Leader Triumph Award.
The LEADERSHIP AWARD honors those individuals or groups who have provided outstanding service as a leader; demonstrated ongoing leadership competency with the HIM profession; adhered and advocated for the AHIMA Code of Ethics and any other appropriate codes of conduct; valued honesty, integrity, and transparency; and work as team players/collaborators; are recognized as a qualified authority in the health information industry (HIM) profession; and presented a positive professional image for the Association and the profession.

The Leadership Triumph Award honors individuals who have provided outstanding service as leaders in the health information management (HIM) field. The varied and sustained accomplishments of Sue Clarke-Kendrick, MHA, RHIA, merit recognition of such an outstanding leader.

Since 2000, Ms. Clarke-Kendrick has been an exceptional leader and dedicated educator to upcoming HIM professionals. In her previous role as the HIM director at Phelps Hospital, she managed to attain one of the highest scores in employee engagement and lowest rates in employee turnover. In addition, she lowered the cost of operations and increased productivity with streamlining processes, implementing solutions, and being a transformational leader in today’s challenging healthcare industry. She strives for excellent outcomes and recognizes, motivates, coaches, and mentors her staff and interns from various schools to assist with their professional growth, as well as align their roles and goals with that of the organization and industry. She empowers her staff to take on challenges and support their efforts to ensure their continued success.

Ms. Clarke-Kendrick serves on many leadership committees and is very active in all three levels of her professional associations: AHIMA, NYHIMA, and TZHIMA. This year, she received the Mentor of the Year award from NYHIMA and has been elected as president-elect. Recently, in her role as the curriculum chair of the health information technology (HIT) program, she designed three educational programs that were approved by New York State and the SUNY education board. The programs, implemented within the past year at Westchester Community College, are now part of the college’s curriculum. She has also been the president of Tappan-Zee Health Information Management Association (TZHIMA). She is an AHIMA-certified ICD-10 trainer.

She received her bachelor’s degree from Downstate Medical Center in HIM, obtained RHIA credentialing in 1999, and graduated from masters of healthcare administration program from Capella University with honors and a 4.0 GPA.

Ms. Clarke-Kendrick has recently taken on a new role as the AVP of HIM and CDI operations at Wyckoff Medical Center, where she will assist with the development of a CDI program, as well as work closely with HIM and senior leadership teams to identify opportunities to improve processes and increase revenue.

Ms. Clarke-Kendrick has two wonderful boys (8 and 21), a supportive husband and a mother who enables her to dedicate the time needed for commitments to both the HIM profession at the clinical side, and the education side.

A highly respected colleague, Ms. Clarke-Kendrick’s leadership influence is felt throughout the HIM community. AHIMA congratulates Sue Clarke-Kendrick, MHA, RHIA, as the recipient of the 2018 Leadership Triumph Award.
The MENTOR AWARD honors individuals or groups with long records of encouraging individuals to realize their full potential or who have helped them find ways to achieve their best.

Kealia (Kay) A. Folck, MHA, RHIA, CPEHR, CPHIT, is the recipient of this year’s AHIMA Mentor Triumph Award. She is a clinical assistant professor in health information management at the University of Kansas Medical Center in Kansas City, KS.

Ms. Folck’s 40 year professional career has encompassed traditional HIM management, practice management, health IT, resource and quality management, legal and risk management and academia. Her professional service includes AHIMA Research and Definition of Legal Health Record Committees, TxHIMA Board of Directors, MoHIMA Scholarship Committee and president of the Kansas City Health Information Management Association. She played a key role in introducing EHR technology into the Vlab and she was recognized by MoHIMA as their Educator of the Year. Throughout all of these experiences, Ms. Folck has seized opportunities to help and mentor students and fellow HIM practitioners on their professional journeys.

Ms. Folck has been giving to the HIM profession for many years and wholeheartedly invests in all of her students through a deep commitment and passion for learning. She is an active mentor in AHIMA’s Mentor Match program, where she has met and mentored many students from other Kansas and Missouri HIM programs.

She also has supported students in California, Florida, Mississippi, and Texas. Ms. Folck is lovingly called the HIM “MOM” by many of her students because of the caring and supportive guidance and mentorship she provided to each one of them.

Ms. Folck’s mentorship isn’t limited to students. She spent an equal amount of time mentoring HIM professionals as they made their professional journeys. She has advised and supported them through counseling, networking, and providing references to advance their education, successfully seize job opportunities, and actively engage in professional involvement.

One of her nominators says, “Kay Folck is incredibly deserving of this award as her mentorship cannot be matched. She gives her heart and soul to her students, her peers, and the HIM community. Her enthusiasm for the future growth of our profession is infectious. Kay sets an example of excellence in our community that cannot be beat.”

AHIMA congratulates Kay A. Folck, MHA, RHIA, CPEHR, CPHIT, with the 2018 Mentor Triumph Award for her strong commitment to inspire others to become leaders in the HIM profession.
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.

The leadership, accomplishments, and contributions of Andrea K. Pringle have revealed her as outstanding, fresh talent rising from a CAHIIM—accredited program. Her commitment to and vision of the future of HIM has led her to become one of the recipients of the 2018 AHIMA Student Triumph Award.

A student at Florida A&M University (FAMU), Ms. Pringle has excelled in her academics and is involved in many activities on campus. She has served in the Student Government Association in a variety of leadership roles, as president of the Student HIIM Association, and as a member of the School of Allied Health Sciences Student Executive Committee. A constant advocate for HIM, she has also participated in health fairs on campus and in the community to promote consumer awareness of the PHR, HIPAA, and other important HIM initiatives. FAMU recently recognized her as the 2018 Outstanding Student for the School of Allied Health Division of Health Informatics and Information Management for her many achievements in and out of the classroom. Ms. Pringle's professors describe her as "a polished leader who stands out in a crowd of students" and "a role model who always strives for excellence."

When off campus, she enjoys serving as a student liaison on the Florida Health Information Management Association (FHIMA) Board of Directors. She led her fellow Florida students in advocating at the State Capitol for FHIMA Hill Day. At this event, Pringle gave a detailed presentation to the student delegation on the dos and don'ts of lobbying with legislators. After the event, she had an article published in the FHIMA newsletter describing the successful outcomes of the student delegation. Ms. Pringle is also involved in planning for the 2018 FHIMA convention. Her fellow board members stated she has an “eager spirit and willingness to learn and lead” when it comes to being involved at the state and national HIM levels.

Ms. Pringle has been bestowed with many awards that highlight her value and merit within her community. These awards include the FHIMA Undergraduate Scholarship, John W. Thompson of Microsoft Higher Achiever Award, Who’s Who Among Students of America, and the Alachua County Chapter FAMU National Alumni Association Scholarship.

Because of her passion for the field, commitment to HIM, and emerging talent, AHIMA congratulates Andrea K. Pringle with the 2018 Student 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.

AHIMA is proud to announce the selection of Isabel Quintana, MA, CCA, as one of the recipients of the 2018 Student Triumph Award. Ms. Quintana was deemed worthy of this award based on her demonstrated academic and professional accomplishments and competencies.

Ms. Quintana is a student at University of Central Florida (UCF). She will be receiving her baccalaureate degree in health informatics and information management (HIIM) in the Fall of 2018. She has been the recipient of several honors, including the UCF President’s Honor Roll, the Florida Health Information Management Association (FHIMA) 2017 Undergraduate Scholarship, and the 2017 Central Florida Health Information Management Association (CFHIMA) Scholarship. Remarkably, prior to her HIIM studies, she already held a master’s degree in history from Tulane University. Her professors describe her as highly intelligent, inquisitive, passionate, hardworking, and caring about others.

In addition to her full-time academic workload, she sought to obtain experience in the HIM field by working first as a medical records specialist, and, most recently, as administrative coordinator of referral services and continuity of care at the UCF Student Health Services. This last position is highly demanding and includes supervisory responsibilities and active participation in the implementation of a new EHR. Furthermore, she strived to obtain her CCA credential in the midst of all her other responsibilities.

Demonstrating her leadership qualities and enthusiastic commitment to the HIM profession, she has been an active student member of AHIMA, FHIMA, CFHIMA, and the UCF Student Health Information Management Association (SHIMA) for which she serves as president this year. She currently serves as the FHIMA Student Liaison, advocating for HIM students throughout the state, and was instrumental in planning and executing the first annual FHIMA Student and New Professional Convention in February of this year. This sold-out event was a complete success and is her most prized accomplishment in her volunteer role.

As stated by one of her nominators, “Any task that Isabel is given is met with dedication and determination. Isabel has proven that she is a student rising star in HIM and one of the fresh new talents being trained in a CAHIIM-accredited program.” Recently, Ms. Quitana received the FHIMA Outstanding Student Award for 2017–18. For all her efforts and dedication, AHIMA congratulates Isabel Quintana, MA, CCA, as a recipient of the 2018 Student Triumph Award.