2013 Triumph Awards
Honoring Those Who Make a Difference
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AHIMA gratefully acknowledges the generous support of

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 accomplishment continues with the 2013 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 2013 AHIMA Triumph Awards recipients and nominees!
Dr. Melanie Brodnik's long and distinguished career in HIM encompasses over four decades of tireless advocacy for HIM practice, education, research, and professional excellence. She began her career in 1968 as an accredited record technician (ART), receiving her associates degree from Fullerton Junior College, and working as a medical record technician at the Children's Hospital of Orange County. Her passion for professional achievement and the HIM profession led her to pursue studies at the Loma Linda University Medical Center where she received a bachelor's degree in Medical Record Administration. Her love of learning and for knowledge led her to the State University of New York, Albany where she received a Master's of Science degree in 1974. But Dr. Brodnik did not stop there. Her continuing belief in the value of advanced education and the importance of modeling the value of the doctoral degree to advance the HIM profession led her to earn a doctorate in Research and Evaluation in 1991 from The Ohio State University. Without question, she raised the bar and inspired educators and practitioners to earn advanced degrees.

As an educator, Dr. Brodnik led one of the first research-oriented HIM programs in the country. The HIM educational program at The Ohio State University and Dr. Brodnik are synonymous. She began her teaching career there in 1973, receiving tenure and rising through the academic ranks to associate professor. She was the principal investigator of a coveted three-year Kellogg Foundation grant in 1980 to establish the Development of a Nontraditional MRA Program for ART Progression, one of the very first programs of its kind that provided a route for advancing the educational career paths of HIM professionals. She has been a prescient advocate for advancing and strengthening the foundations of the profession. Her seminal work as the lead in designing the HIM professional curriculum models at the associate, baccalaureate, and master's level of the profession remains an important legacy.

Dr. Brodnik has been an effective advocate for the importance of research as the lifeblood of the profession. She has established herself as a research investigator, having secured or participated on numerous grants over the course of her career totaling awards of nearly $2 million. She established and served as the editor of the influential peer-reviewed journal, Topics in Health Information Management, for over two decades. Her contribution to the HIM Body of Knowledge includes 40 published articles in peer-reviewed journals, numerous contributions to iconic textbooks in the field and editor of the text Fundamentals of Law for Health Informatics and Information Management, now in its second edition.

In addition to a flourishing academic career, Dr. Brodnik has never wavered in her volunteerism within local, state, and national organizations. Indeed, her volunteer service to AHIMA began in 1974 and she served the Association as a member or chairperson committee, task force, commission, or elected officer every one of the last 39 years. She has served with distinction on both AHIMA and OHIMA's Boards of Directors and as president of AHIMA in 2004. She has received significant honors including being the recipient of two AHIMA Triumph awards: The 2006 Champion Award and the 2010 Legacy Award.

Dr. Brodnik's legacy is more than the sum of all these achievements, however. Her curiosity and interest in the world, love of learning, perspective, wisdom, and citizenship have forged new territory in expanding the knowledge base and establishing HIM as an important and distinct discipline for the 21st Century. And her generosity as mentor and role model to thousands in the field will continue to have a lasting impact on the success of HIM for decades to come.

It is for this very reason that AHIMA presents Dr. Melanie Brodnik with the Distinguished Member Award.
It is an honor to award Heather Shankland, MBA, RHIA, the Champion Advocacy and Public Policy Award. Ms. Shankland has shown great leadership in the HIM industry through her participation in ILHIMA and CIHIMA. She has served on the ILHIMA Board from 2009–2012 and as director of legislation from 2010–2012. Ms. Shankland was CIHIMA president-elect, president, and past-president from May 2008 to May 2011. She also served as co-chair of the ILHIMA Annual Meeting in 2008.

She has demonstrated advancing legislative initiatives that promote the interests and awareness of the HIM profession at many levels. Ms. Shankland has also promoted and supported health information exchange (SHIE) initiatives for several years by being active on area committees developing policies related to HIE.

Ms. Shankland has supported key AHIMA advocacy and public policy initiatives at the local, state, and national level. As ILHIMA’s director of legislation, she played a large part in organizing ILHIMA’s collaboration with the Greater Chicago Chapter (GCCHIMSS) for Advocacy Day (State Hill Day) in Springfield, IL, in 2012. This inaugural event allowed HIM professionals to learn what the state of Illinois had planned for electronic health records (EHRs) to improve health and patient safety through educational sessions and panel discussions with state officials and other professionals. Besides organizing a successful event, Ms. Shankland strengthened the ILHIMA and HIM relationship with HIMSS.

Ms. Shankland initiated and implemented strategies to update CIHIMA operations and lead the organization forward in numerous areas. She was the first president to utilize current technology to meet mentors’ needs and expectations, and initiated the use of online surveys to gather feedback from members. She was instrumental in the establishment of electronic registration for the quarterly education meetings, conducted a complete review and revision of the organizational policy handbook, and utilized the organization website to ensure access for the entire central region, allowing for greater distribution of information and efficient use of limited resources. Ms. Shankland advocated ILHIMA initiatives and actively endorsed members to become volunteers.

Ms. Shankland shows dedication, enthusiasm, and commitment to the HIM profession by serving on the ISU HIM program advisory board. She attended annual meetings providing review of current curriculum and analysis of program outcomes, recommended improvements to maximize student success and maintenance of program accreditation and provided internship opportunities for students at St. John’s Hospital in Springfield, IL.

Congratulations, Ms. Shankland, as a well-deserving recipient of the Champion Advocacy and Public Policy Award based on your dedication, commitment, and leadership to the HIM profession.
AHIMA proudly presents the Champion Advocacy and Public Policy Award to HIPAA COW—HIPAA Collaborative of Wisconsin. HIPAA COW provides an important resource for programs, a voice in the national dialog regarding HIPAA implementation, and the ability to collaborate with other states and regions. The HIPAA Collaborative of Wisconsin is a Regional Strategic National Implementation Process Affiliate (SNIP) of the Workgroup for Electronic Data Interchange (WEDI) Strategic National Implementation Process.

In 2001, the WHIMA president recognized an opportunity for HIM to take the lead in bringing vested parties together to work collaboratively to effectively operationalize HIPAA while sharing knowledge and reducing duplication of efforts. Within a year the group became known as the HIPAA Collaborative of Wisconsin (HIPAA COW), a not-for-profit organization. In the 11 years since, HIPAA COW has become the "go-to" HIPAA resource in Wisconsin and is also recognized on the national level for practical and credible deliverables. The vast array of professions attending educational sessions, numerous workgroup participants, and nationally recognized speakers returning to speak at meetings (for example, OCR) substantiate how effective this collaboration has become, allowing them to develop and implement strong policy.

HIPAA COW’s greatest strength is advocacy—coming together to interpret rules, provide deliverables, and educate others about HIPAA implementation. Their credibility establishes trust and creates an environment of opportunity for HIM professionals to take active roles in most any facet of the healthcare industry. It also provides opportunities to develop their expertise to earn leadership roles in organizations and advance the mission of the founding HIPAA COW members.

For 11 years, the HIPAA Collaborative of Wisconsin has continued to present an efficient solution to HIPAA implementation for Wisconsin and the nation through information sharing and learning, reduction of duplicated efforts among participants, and opportunities to partner in implementation efforts with other entities affected by HIPAA. Key components of HIPAA COW’s success have serving Wisconsin healthcare professionals in the implementation and ongoing work of HIPAA. This demonstrates a commitment to excellence in their formal programming. HIPAA COW has presented 84 privacy and security sessions, bringing the OCR to speak to Wisconsin professionals seven times; make documents available to all on their website to create a foundation for covered entities to provide consistent practices for patients no matter where those patients seek service; and maintained a strong and respected presence on HIPAA, using it to voice concerns to regulatory agencies on transactions and code sets, privacy, and security topics; demonstrated a commitment not only to healthcare professionals within Wisconsin, but the United States, receiving recognition as a credible source on HIPAA.

Congratulations, HIPAA COW and its leaders in demonstrating the best characteristics recognized by the Champion Advocacy and Public Policy Award.
Marie T. Conde, MPA, RHIA, CCS, FAHIMA is an exemplary educator who has prepared myriad students for their HIM careers. She is a passionate and accomplished HIM leader, educator, and volunteer with over 30 years of achievements in academia and the healthcare industry.

For over 24 years, she dedicated a large portion of her career as program director and instructor of the Health Information Technology program at City College of San Francisco. As director, she kept the program in full compliance and accreditation as required by the Commission on Accreditation for Health Informatics and Information Management Education (CAHIIM). During her leadership, she developed a program that maintains a high level of respect among alumni and the San Francisco Bay Area healthcare community. She completely restructured the curricula and implemented a professional practice “coding lab” to enhance student learning activities to prepare the next generation of coders.

Ms. Conde demonstrates genuine commitment and dedication towards education. She is a highly respected educator who is sensitive to her students’ needs, especially in San Francisco with its considerable ethnic diversity and inherent language barriers. Students identify Ms. Conde as the educator and mentor who encourages and inspires them to achieve and set HIM goals early in their careers. From the beginning, she lets students know they must make a commitment, not only to their education but also to the HIM profession. She has a unique way of nurturing and developing new HIM professionals and not just providing materials to pass an examination. In addition to her accomplishments at CCSF, she shares her knowledge with others through presentations and seminars across the country. She is known as an individual who will assist, work, and take on challenges to improve, promote, and advance our profession. What is remarkable about her style is that she is able to communicate her high standards to all.

Her volunteer service includes numerous contributions to CAHIIM as chair, commissioner, and program site surveyor; the AHIMA Convention Committee; and as president of the California Health Information Association (CHIA) and in other capacities at the state and local levels.

Ms. Conde is also a Fellow of AHIMA, a high honor within the profession, reserved for an outstanding array of accomplishments.

As a valued member of the Association, Ms. Conde is recognized by her peers and a recipient of national awards and honors—notably AHIMA’s Mentor Triumph Award, CHIA’s Professional Achievement Award, and AHIMA’s Educator Award.

As an HIM visionary, Ms. Conde is a first-generation ICD-10-approved trainer and one of 15 faculty members on the AHIMA ICD-10-CM/PCS Academies. She continues to influence students and the AHIMA membership as she prepares them for ICD-10-CM/PCS.

Ms. Conde is an independent HIM consultant providing consulting and coding services to numerous healthcare institutions throughout the United States and Internationally.

AHIMA is honored to congratulate Marie T. Conde as this year’s recipient of the Educator Triumph Award.
Dr. Margaret Gallo Kyriakos exemplifies what it means to be an HIM educator by preparing the next generation of HIM professionals. She is very passionate in promoting, recruiting, mentoring, and enhancing professional practice opportunities.

Her students are knowledgeable and passionate about learning. Their enthusiasm to learn is attributed to Dr. Kyriakos’ teaching methods and her own passion for the profession. Her love for teaching is apparent in all her interactions with students and others in the profession. Students sing her praises as they graduate.

When seeking applicants for the workforce her students are desirable because they are always prepared, knowledgeable, prompt, dressed professionally, and know how to act in the work setting. To promote a successful transition from student to employee, Dr. Kyriakos established an active mentoring program for students as a result of her excellent reputation with practitioners. The ILHIMA mentoring project helps to successfully match first-year students with a mentor for three years, guiding and motivating the students through completing their education, taking the credentialing exam, and attaining their first HIM position post-graduation.

She also encourages them to begin service as lifelong volunteers for the HIM profession.

Dr. Kyriakos has a significant and progressive record of accomplishments in the classroom and the profession. She progressed through HIT and HIA education and earned her PhD in higher education. Her dissertation focused on a topic of vital importance to HIM education—the relationship of outcomes assessment to program accreditation. She is actively involved at the national, state, and local levels. She serves on the Panel of Accreditations surveyors for CAHIIM as an energetic, meticulous reviewer of programs.

She serves as department chair for a successful HIT associate degree program in northern Illinois, received the distinguished member award from the Illinois and Chicago Area Health Information Management Associations, and served on the board’s for both associations.

Dr. Kyriakos’ knowledge and long record of experience serving, in educational program management, accreditation review and association service makes her well qualified to receive the Educator Award and AHIMA congratulates her on this accomplishment.
AHIMA is proud to select Pamela L. Lane, MS, RHIA, CPHIMS, as a recipient of the 2013 Leadership Award. She has over 20 years of senior leadership experience in HIM, revenue cycle management, and clinical applications. Her specific positions ranged from vice president, health informatics for the California Hospital Association, 2007 to 2012; senior director of Revenue Cycle at NorthBay Healthcare from 2005 to 2007; director of business operations and HIM at Lompoc Healthcare District from 2001 to 2005, a senior installation specialist at QuadraMed Corporation from 1998 to 2005. She was also director of HIM at the Westerly Hospital in Rhode Island from 1992 to 1998. She is a veteran of the US Navy.

In February 2012, California Governor Jerry Brown appointed Ms. Lane as the deputy secretary of health information exchange at the California Health and Human Services Agency. Her leadership in this forum has included close collaboration with the Office of the National Coordinator (ONC) for Health Information Technology, and promoting engagement of ONC with AHIMA to ensure core HIM issues are well represented in the HIE discussion.

“She has been essential at framing a leadership and governance forum for health information exchange (HIE) in California. Her skills at navigating complex and disputed waters with both content knowledge and skillful negotiation have been indispensable to the progress of this work,” write John Mattison, MD, assistant medical director, chief medical officer, Kaiser Permanente, SCAL.

Ms. Lane is recognized for the AHIMA Leadership Award not just for her work in HIE but also for leading the diversified state of California into collaborating and committing to statewide HIE. Her representation of key privacy and security issues that serve as barriers to HIE were a breath of fresh air to those who needed a voice of reason to enable HIE’s success in California. She worked intimately with hospital chief information officers and health information managers to address the complexities of the HITECH Act and the implications of adopting electronic health records (EHR) on clinical care. Additionally, she was proactive in working with the Medi-Cal EHR Incentive Program to ensure the products and tools developed would be functional, understandable, and correct for the hospitals of California.

Dr. Linette Scott, MPH, chief medical information officer for the California Department of Healthcare Services writes, “Ms. Lane has seized the opportunity to convene, problem-solve, innovate and collaborate to solve the complex data standards, data policy, and statutory and regulatory components of EHRs and health information exchange. Her clear and straight-forward messaging, her willingness to listen and learn, and her ability to address issues and challenges directly have helped to move California ahead in adopting EHRs and exchanging information.”

Ms. Lane’s own words prior to her appointment exemplify her commitment and contribution to the field of HIM and the larger healthcare community, include the consumer:

“It is an honor to be named to this important leadership role. As a career health information management professional, I join with others who believe the value of patient care information is not in the ‘paper’ but in the data that can drive care decisions. I’m delighted to be asked to lead California’s team to ensure that electronic data is available on the correct patient, at the right time, in the right place and for the right reasons. We can do no less on behalf of our patients and the healthcare delivery system.”

Without a doubt, Ms. Lane is leading the HIM field through this amazing transformation.

AHIMA congratulates Ms. Pamela Lane as a recipient of the 2013 AHIMA Leadership Award!
AHIMA is proud to select Bernice C. Ulrich, RHIA, as the recipient of the 2013 Leadership Award. Ms. Ulrich is an accomplished leader and visionary in the HIM profession. “The objective of the Leadership Award is to honor a qualified authority in the HIM profession who presents a positive professional image as the leader for the Association and the profession.”

Ms. Ulrich fulfills all these objectives. “She has been able to (use her) influence in applying her visionary approach to effective methods necessary to the collection, storage and use of health information,” states Katherine J. Wallace. “Her leadership within Indiana and AHIMA is outstanding and conveys her dedication to our entire profession.” Since Ms. Ulrich began her career in HIM, she has been involved at all levels of the profession, including long-term care and ambulatory care. She became involved with volunteerism at the state level within Indiana and then rose to the national level, volunteering as a member of the Long Term Care Council, Clinical Terminology and Classification Practice Councils, as well as other positions on multiple national committees. She has also participated as the president of the Allied Association and Resources Network (A2RNET) for the American Hospital Association (AHA). She has been a member and chair on two College/University HIM undergraduate advisory committees.

Ms. Ulrich currently works as the vice president of data services for the Indiana Hospital Association. Her vision for statewide comparative data led to the development of the Comparative Outcome Profile. This program provided benchmarking data for hospitals for clinical quality indicators. She has also led the development of systems and structures to accomplish strategic planning for Indiana healthcare facilities.

Ms. Ulrich is also an accomplished national presenter and speaker, and has written for and contributed to multiple publications. She worked as a full-time instructor and an adjunct HIM faculty member and supported HIM managers through her consulting activities in numerous healthcare institutions.

Ms. Ulrich’s passion for HIM comes from within. Her effective communication, team leadership, energy, enthusiasm, and dedication to the HIM profession are evident to all who have had the opportunity to know her. Ms. Ulrich's passion is not just for the profession, but for the individuals who comprise the profession. Her abilities to mentor, motivate, and advocate for the development and continuous learning of others are sincere and heartfelt. This is clearly displayed by Ms. Ulrich’s ability to take time and listen to people, and her entrepreneur spirit. She inspires others and demonstrates every characteristic of a great leader. Janatha R. Ashton writes, “During her 24-year tenure (as committee chairperson), her ability to produce positive results through consensus building, creative and critical thinking, and problem solving were never more evident.”

AHIMA congratulates Ms. Ulrich, recipient of the 2013 Leadership Award!
Terri Frnka, RHIT, has been a longtime advocate of student success. In the 17 years that Ms. Frnka has volunteered her services to the HIM field, she has accomplished much in promoting the profession, concentrating a majority of her dedication to that of being a mentor and establishing numerous clinical sites for students.

Within the volunteer work of her CSA, Ms. Frnka is responsible for engaging students to get involved on the local and state level, with an emphasis on increasing participation by the student membership to make the Association and profession stronger. She always encourages students to attend the local and state association meetings and often provides them with opportunities to volunteer and network by introducing guest speakers and assisting with registration duties.

At Texas State University, one of only two BSHIM programs in the state, Ms. Frnka has a demonstrated record of mentoring, both by encouraging students to apply to the program and by mentoring students for their professional practice experience (PPE). Ms. Frnka has encouraged co-workers and acquaintances to enroll in the Texas State University (TSU) program and has personally contacted the university about potential students. Ms. Frnka has referred both traditional (campus) and nontraditional (online) students, and has especially encouraged students to take advantage of TSU’s online curriculum to progress from a RHIT to a RHIA.

Ms. Frnka is the go to HIM professional that can always be counted on to assist with students. She not only mentors students as a PPE preceptor herself, but also shares her extensive network of contacts to assist in securing clinical placements. Ms. Frnka not only encourages HIM professionals entering the field but also continues to stay in touch with mentees as they progress in their education and careers. She has personally helped a multitude of students make important connections and find jobs.

Ms. Frnka is also a HIM leader and educational supporter at the local, state, and national levels, having held many leadership positions in AHIMA, TxHIMA, and the Houston Area Health Information Management Association (HAHIMA). It is also noteworthy that Ms. Frnka serves as an advisory board member on two HIM programs, including service as chair of the San Jacinto College Advisory Board. As an advocate for lifelong learning Ms. Frnka consistently encourages individuals she meets in her work and her service activities to advance their education.

Terri Frnka is a valuable resource and a true asset to the HIM profession. She exemplifies the qualities of a HIM leader, volunteer, role model, and mentor. AHIMA is honored to recognize her as a 2013 recipient of the AHIMA Triumph Mentor Award.
AHIMA is proud to select Pamela Haney, MS, RHIA, CCS, CPC-H as a recipient of the 2013 Mentor award.

Ms. Haney’s commitment to mentoring staff by understanding their educational needs led her to identify and accept the challenges of recruiting and retaining qualified coders in rural Maine. In her current position as director of coding services for Synernet, Inc., (Portland, ME), a hospital-owned outsourced provider of administrative services primarily to hospitals, physician practices, and surgical centers, Ms. Haney’s creativity and resourcefulness facilitated the professional development of the many professional colleagues and coding staff “lucky enough to have her as their boss.”

Credentialed coders are hard to find in rural Maine. Ms. Haney never accepted that as an excuse to accept undertrained staff. She set a standard of requiring staff to be credentialed, and then set out to make that happen.

Ms. Haney established contact with a local community college to offer local credentialing classes for those wishing to enter the field and for those currently working without credentials. As an active member of the Maine Health Information Management Association, Ms. Haney always considers the bigger picture: not only what would help her employer, but what would benefit the profession throughout the state. Her program was established not just for her own staff, but was offered to everyone, and thus met with great success.

Her plans and vision in identifying professional colleagues and students willing to take their careers to the next step by becoming AHIMA-credentialed coders did not end when training was completed and credentials were earned. Ms. Haney has continued to encourage and mentor each one, providing them with the tools and resources needed for continued success.

As mentor to many, Ms. Haney exudes confidence with a positive, can-do attitude at all times and instills these qualities in others. A true leader by example, Ms. Haney achieved her CCS credential along with the majority of her staff. Her outstanding achievements in staff development and mentoring have opened doors and touched the lives of many grateful new coders who would not have had the opportunity to expand their horizons without her. For this, AHIMA is honored to present the Mentor Award to Pamela Haney.
Lorraine Fernandes, RHIA, has been instrumental in moving health informatics and health information into the future. Ms. Fernandes has distinguished herself as an international thought leader, accomplished author, respected public speaker, and advisor on topics related to technology’s role in healthcare transformation, and is recognized as the face of e-data management issues. She has addressed international HIM for over a decade in support of jurisdictional priorities in Canada, Australia, New Zealand, Singapore, Japan, Mexico, and China.

Ms. Fernandes’ knowledge and impact on the global healthcare community is impressive, but so is her willingness to share that information with her health information and informatics peers. She has educated multidisciplinary groups on HIM issues such as Big Data, HIE, data quality, and patient, provider, and citizen authentication. She has spoken and written widely and had been the face of e-data management issues. Her work with the Markle Foundation’s Connecting for Health, the eHealth Initiative was pioneering in that it has helped to shape policies and guidance that moved important early RHIO and exchange projects along in the US and in other countries. Ms. Fernandes has also testified at NCVHS and the HIT Policy Committee. Like all pioneers, Ms. Fernandes has been fearless in getting to the table and effectively representing HIM. She has truly expanded the influence and impact of HIM through her work as the global healthcare industry ambassador, information management, for IBM and prior to this as vice president at Initiate Systems.

Ms. Fernandes has always been generous with her time in volunteering for AHIMA, and has been a member of the HIE Task Force. She previously served on the e-HIM Workgroup on Patient Identification. She is a prior member of the AHIMA Foundation (formerly FORE) Board, served for nearly five years on the HIMSS Patient Identification workgroup, and was previously on the RHIO Federation Task Force.

You can now find Ms. Fernandes volunteering with the International Federation of Health Information Management Associations (IFHIMA), where she was recently appointed as AHIMA’s national representative and serves on the IFHIMA Board.

Ms. Fernandes’ professional values are of the very highest standard and integrity. She has always had the interests of the HIM profession at the forefront of her thinking. She is an inspiration and mentor to many and an HIM professional who has achieved respect for herself and the HIM profession. AHIMA is honored to present the 2013 Pioneer Award to Lorraine Fernandes.
FRANCES DILORENZO
RHIT

AHIMA is pleased to select Frances DiLorenzo, RHIT, a new professional who has enthusiastically embraced the HIM profession, as the recipient of the 2013 Rising Star Award.

Having no prior involvement in the HIM field, Ms. DiLorenzo joined the Health Information Technology Department at Burlington County College, NJ, in 2009 as part-time outcomes manager for a Department of Labor coding grant. Recognizing her leadership skills, creativity, and passion, she was promoted to coding manager in November 2012, recruiting and advising more than 80 students.

Going well beyond these duties and often sacrificing personal time, Ms. DiLorenzo has demonstrated a level of dedication above and beyond the scope of her job, using her skills and strengths to establish well-attended and affordable continuing education seminars, and creating a web portal with educational and career resources for students. She was instrumental in establishing a coding cohort for a rural hospital with a diverse population that has since yielded more than 25 students.

Ms. DiLorenzo’s enthusiasm and passion for the HIM profession, combined with her interactions with students, naturally led her to continue her education at Burlington County College. She graduated in December 2012, with an Associate of Applied Science Degree in Health Information Technology and earned her RHIT credential in May 2013.

She has been described by her colleagues and students as passionate, positive, and creative, and the “go-to” person for getting things done; and praised for her ability to think out-of-the box. In her rise from part-time employee to student to credentialed HIM professional, Ms. DiLorenzo has shown great promise for continued contributions to the future of the HIM profession.

AHIMA congratulates Frances DiLorenzo for her many achievements and as recipient of the 2013 Rising Star Award.
AHIMA is honored to recognize Robin Hernandez as the recipient of the AHIMA Triumph Student Award.

Ms. Hernandez is currently a student in the Health Information Administration program at Loma Linda University (LLU) in Loma Linda, CA. She maintains a 3.76 grade point average, and has received four student scholarships and the Portfolio I Award at LLU. She was also president of the LLU Junior Class, and is a member of the AHIMA Student Advisory Council.

Not only is Ms. Hernandez a remarkable student, she has a strong passion for the HIM profession. As an example of her commitment to HIM, she stepped forward on her own initiative to promote the HIM profession at a LLU outreach program for underprivileged middle school students. Up until that time, the HIM program at LLU was never represented at the program.

Marilyn Davidian, the chair of the HIM Program at LLU, writes, “In addition to her academic achievements, Robin is well known as a person with high personal and professional integrity. She participates well in team endeavors and she has demonstrated unswerving support for her classmates and for the Bachelor of Science program. Robin is often found at open house and recruitment events talking with prospective students about the HIM profession and in particular, the Bachelor of Science program. She speaks eloquently and with passion about the important work of HIM professionals and about the bright future of the profession.”

Debra Hamada, assistant professor at LLU, adds this about Ms. Hernandez: “Not only is she a leader within her class, but she has reached out at a university, community, and national level promoting the health information profession.” Terri Rouse, faculty member at LLU, also states “her thoughtful comments and questions enrich the learning environment during class sessions.”

Students are the future leaders of our profession. Congratulations to Ms. Hernandez on receiving the 2013 AHIMA Triumph Student Award!
2013 AHIMA TRIUMPH AWARD NOMINEES

- Callista A. Arnzen
- Sue Biedermann, MSHP, RHIA, FAHIMA
- Melanie Brodnik, PhD, RHIA, FAHIMA
- Gloryanne H. Bryant, RHIA, CDIP, CCS, CCDS
- Bonnie S. Cassidy, MPA, RHIA, FAHIMA, FHIMSS,
- Andrea Clark, RHIA, CCS, CPC-H
- Marie T. Conde, MPA, RHIA, CCS, FAHIMA
- Frances DiLorenzo, RHIT
- Lorraine M. Fernandes, RHIA
- Terri Frnka, RHIT
- Debra L. Hamada, MA, RHIA
- Lauree E. Handlon, MS, RHIA, CCS, CPC-H, FAHIMA
- Pamela Haney, MS, RHIA, CCS, CPC-H
- Robin Hernandez
- HIPAA COW—HIPAA Collaborative of Wisconsin
- Yvonne Hughes, MPA
- Carol Jennings, MPA, RHIA, FAHIMA
- Margaret Gallo Kyriakos, PhD, RHIA
- Pamela L. Lane, MS, RHIA, CPHIMS
- Monica E. Leisch, RHIA, CCS
- Darcee Janelle Roeschlein
- Laura W. Pait, RHIA, CDIP, CCS
- Heather Shankland, MBA, RHIA
- Melinda Teel, RHIA, CCS
- Bernice C. Ulrich, RHIA
- Elise Van Zandt
- Kelly Wilson, MBA, RHIA, CHP, LHRM, FAHIMA
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