

Seizing the Moment

Save to myBoK

by Bryon Pickard, MBA, RHIA

Happy October! Fall is my favorite time of year. For many of us, the days are becoming cooler, trees are transforming into brilliant colors, and college and university campuses are bustling with activity. We have just passed the autumn equinox when the sun crosses the equator. Days are getting shorter, and change surrounds us.

In the Midst of Transformation

Just like the changing seasons, the HIM profession is in the midst of a transformation. A new HIM paradigm is before us, and we must ask ourselves key questions as we move ahead:

- How do we best take advantage of new roles in an emerging electronic health information environment so that we thrive in the future?
- How do we capitalize on an inclusive and diverse membership?
- How do we develop education and accelerate learning for every generation?
- How do we ensure that competencies for current and prospective HIM professionals keep up with rapidly evolving technological change?

The scale and scope of change in healthcare will likely be much greater than we ever imagined.

This summer college faculty from across the US came together at AHIMA's Assembly on Education Summer Symposium. They tackled important topics related to HIM education and training, vital components at the very core of our future. The recently released white paper "Vision 2016: A Blueprint for Quality Education in Health Information Management" served as a framework for robust discussions. Top priorities focus on how to best transform HIM into a higher-level graduate profession; realigning the HIM associate degree to meet technical work force needs; and preparing an effective, qualified pool of HIM faculty. You can read the white paper at www.ahima.org/emerging_issues [web page no longer available].

By determining where we want HIM education and training to be by 2016, we can provide stakeholders with valuable insights that guide efforts and add value to our educational processes. To expand the HIM work force, AHIMA launched www.healthinformationcareers.com [web page no longer available], a Web site that outlines what HIM professionals do. The site includes links to accredited HIM programs.

ACEs Wild for HIM

AHIMA has also launched the Action Community for e-HIM® Excellence (ACE). The initiative mobilizes HIM experts and change agents who are ready to help lead the e-HIM transformation. ACE members share expertise with others as mentors, speakers, and writers, a powerful way to advance best practices, accelerate learning, and inspire others. ACE members will be a powerful force for the HIM transformation. You can learn more at www.ahima.org/ace [web page no longer available].

I firmly believe that when people give of themselves, they get even more in return. We have a big job ahead of us, and there are a number of ways you can help strengthen AHIMA, our profession, and your own personal and professional growth at the local, state, and national levels.

October also marks the time of year when thousands of HIM professionals come together for the AHIMA Convention and Exhibit. This year's event in Philadelphia offers numerous opportunities for learning, idea sharing, networking, and loads of fun.

Whether it's attending a conference, performing your daily work, learning new skills, or studying for a credential, take pride in what you do. All of us should.

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Driving the Power of Knowledge

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