

A Little Less Hazy, A Little Less Crazy

Save to myBoK

By Lynne Thomas Gordon, MBA, RHIA, FACHE, CAE, chief executive officer

Nat "King" Cole used to sing about the "lazy, hazy, crazy days of summer." Today, most of us are working through summer days that are neither lazy nor hazy (although unfortunately, sometimes they're crazy). But August can also be a time to stop and reflect about where we are going, in our lives and in our careers.

AHIMA has always advocated for HIM professionals to pursue additional professional development, to sharpen their skills, and to embrace new technologies.

"Lifelong learning" has been our mantra here at AHIMA for as long as I can remember. And while AHIMA will always support professional development, we're now turning our attention specifically to formal education.

In the current environment of technological change, everyone's working differently these days-and using more sophisticated tools. In fact, many HIM professionals may already be performing graduate-level work on a daily basis, regardless of their degree.

AHIMA's new mantra, "Learn More, Earn More," reflects that new reality. Data suggests that having an advanced degree may result in higher salaries and better job opportunities, in addition to greater influence and professional stature.

Education Changes Everything

Education changes everything. I know this first hand.

The biggest change in my career path took place after I got my master's degree. I worked full-time while in a two-year program to get an executive MBA. At first, it was very difficult-particularly the first quarter. But I learned how to juggle and prioritize and sometimes temporarily put other things on hold. I set goals and planned rewards for myself to celebrate my progress.

Along the way, I began to notice that I could apply things on the job that I was learning in the classroom, right away.

And when I finished, more doors began to open to me in my career. My hard work began to pay off immediately. Looking back now, my only regret is that I didn't do it sooner.

What Does the Future Look Like?

I hope the articles in this month's issue will stir you to ask what is possible for yourself and your career.

This summer, AHIMA is gathering feedback on Reality 2016, our vision for the future of education and the profession developed by AHIMA's Council for Excellence in Education (CEE). The specifics are detailed in our cover story by members of the CEE: "[Vision 2016 to Reality 2016: Building a Profession](#)." The article highlights the steps HIM's academic realm must take to foster HIM managers ready for the 21st century digital world. Chris Dimick gets the perspective of the industry on "[Health Information Management 2025](#)" so we can start preparing now to do tomorrow's work. And Sue Biedermann and Susan Fenton share how they created an HIM research training bootcamp in "[Bootcamp and Beyond: A Research Journey](#)."

AHIMA will seek further input from the general membership this summer and fall on Reality 2016 before making final, formal recommendations to AHIMA's Board of Directors and the AHIMA Foundation.

To give us your input, send an e-mail to reality2016@ahimafoundation.org.

In August, we may "wish that summer could always be here," as the song goes. But the reality is that we all must plan for the future. With more education, what would your future look like? Give it some thought.

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