

# Awe-Inspiring Year: AHIMA's 2009 Achievements

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By Vera Rulon, MS, RHIT, CCS, FAHIMA

What an overwhelming year it has been.

Not only have I learned a lot, I have also had the privilege of getting to know many of AHIMA's members. I am in awe of our association and how we have responded to the many challenges our healthcare system is facing and will continue to face in the future.

I thank all of you for electing me president in what proved to be an awe-inspiring year. We are in the midst of change. And our association, along with you, the member, is responding and leading the charge in this era of health reform.

## AHIMA's 2009 Achievements

We have accomplished much this year.

AHIMA took the lead in ICD-10 education and policy. The transition to ICD-10 will be a major change that will improve healthcare through health information.

AHIMA also has come to the forefront on the health IT and HIM provisions in the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act, which enacted major reform for health information technology and the healthcare industry in general. The association contributed to the "meaningful use" definition and participated in research that will advance HIM and improve healthcare.

The AHIMA Foundation is taking the association to the next level as well. With a newly formed Health Information Policy and Applied Research Institute, the foundation stands to contribute even more to the improvement of health information technology. The foundation has many plans to drive research and best practices, so stay tuned.

## Stepping into the Future

The association also embarked on a landmark exercise to take us into the future. Using scenario planning, AHIMA put together four potential futures that allow us to understand what the association needs to do to succeed. Members should keep abreast of this project as it proves to be cutting edge in association leadership.

AHIMA has achieved many more accomplishments that I simply do not have space to list. However, I did want to recognize one more, rather subtle, accomplishment, which took a joint effort.

Communications are becoming more fluid, and we are listening to each other more. Because of this AHIMA will be launching a new technology platform for the Communities of Practice this winter, which will truly advance association communications. The new Communities of Practice will provide even better membership communications.

AHIMA has moved into the social networking age as well. We had to adapt to globalization, and AHIMA has been proactive in moving toward new venues, such as Facebook, Twitter, and LinkedIn.

Finally, I would like to reflect on Linda Kloss's 15 years at the helm of AHIMA. AHIMA's growth and development over her tenure cannot be overemphasized, and we will miss her guidance and leadership in the years to come.

Thank you once again for your trust in me as your 2009 president. Although I am not leaving the board yet, I pass the torch on to a qualified and enthusiastic president-elect, Rita Bowen, who I am sure will take AHIMA where it needs to be in 2010 and beyond.

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