

Educator Keeps Eye on the Big Picture

Save to myBoK

by Anne Zender, MA

Assistant professor Nadinia Davis, MBA, CIA, CPA, RHIA, FAHIMA, does all of the daily work expected of an educator: teaching, grading, and advising students. But she's also thinking about education's "big picture" and how HIM fits into it.

Davis's long-range view comes in part from her committee work at Kean University in Union, NJ, where she has taught for five years. She serves on several university committees reviewing curriculum, either within Kean's College of Natural, Applied, and Health Sciences or as part of a larger group that evaluates curricula for every program in the university.

Such work helps her understand how to keep her own courses in Kean's health information management program up to date. And she appreciates these activities because "they help me be a better teacher and I can help others in the university understand HIM."

In through the Auditing Door

Davis didn't initially intend to go into HIM. Instead, she earned an MBA and worked as an auditor. When she became interested in hospital administration, she decided to go back to school and study HIM, which seemed to her to have a skill set similar to her interests.

In addition, Davis says she always had a penchant for teaching. Throughout her career, she often found herself in a training role. After earning her HIM credential, she worked as an HIM director and consultant and continued to teach and train. In 1996 she was invited to establish an HIT program at Berkeley College in West Paterson, NJ. A few years after that, she accepted a teaching position at Kean.

Seeing Worldwide HIM

Davis also broadened her outlook on HIM as a speaker at the October 2000 International Federation of Health Records Organizations (IFHRO) meeting in Melbourne, Australia. "It changed my perspective," she says. "HIM challenges are truly global."

With this October's IFHRO meeting on the horizon (held in conjunction with AHIMA's convention in Washington, DC), Davis is part of a group of volunteer "ambassadors." This group works with directors of IFHRO member nations to promote the upcoming meeting and developed a stipend program to provide financial aid to international attendees. She encourages fellow members to take advantage of this October's meeting. "The ability to interact and hear what people in other countries are doing is just amazing," Davis says.

As HIM evolves, she expects her view of the big picture will continue to expand—and so will her to-do list. Davis, who recently received an AHIMA fellowship designation, is a former member of the board of directors and received the association's Legacy Award in 2002. She often writes and speaks on time management. Yet she says her biggest challenge is prioritizing her many activities. "I want to do everything," she says. "It's very challenging to decide what can I do and what I can't do. That's the hardest thing."

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