

Finding HIM's Sweet Spot: Workforce Training and EHR Initiatives Offer HIM Professionals Numerous Opportunities

Save to myBoK

By Rita Bowen, MA, RHIA, CHPS, SSGB

Your AHIMA Board and CSA leaders have spent much of the year working to ensure that HIM professionals have a leading role in these changing times. We are working collectively to design a world-class association that can be a home to all who work in the health information field.

Our core mission has always been to improve the delivery of healthcare-it is the core principle upon which this association was founded. However, the professional landscape has changed dramatically, and we must meet the demands of a reformed healthcare system and deliver services that meet all our members' needs.

Some have expressed concern over use of the term informatics in AHIMA's definition of the future transformed workspace. As we explained at the Team Talks meetings and in the video "AHIMA: Here and Now" ([previously available online]), the AHIMA Board and CSA leaders are approaching this with cautious research and a keen eye on the growing overlap of health informatics and health information.

We are setting out to create a tangible definition of the term health informatics. From there we will determine the rightful place for health informatics under the broader tent of our profession.

Putting Our Uniqueness to Work

With the current focus on workforce training and electronic health records, I truly believe this is our time to shine. We offer a talent and source of knowledge that no one else brings.

Max Lucado's book *Cure for the Common Life* speaks to living in the "sweet spot." He notes that you can find your sweet spot by putting your uniqueness, motivation, and strengths to work. The opportunities we have been given now with workforce training for those who are working with electronic health records could indeed be our professional sweet spot.

We as a profession offer a gift to society that no one else brings. You bring a unique gift to the profession, so find it and bring it, and when you do, as Lucado states, "both you and God will smile."

When I was a child my favorite Sunday-school song was "This Little Light of Mine." I admit that I liked the song because I could stomp my feet in church and get away with it, but the song's message is clear: now is the time to let our professional brilliance, our creativity shine steady and bright on everyone around us.

Making the Most of Life

In July we lost a professional friend, Wyoming CSA President Dave Westlake. I was in the College of St. Scholastica's master's program (class of 2000) with Dave, and I know that he was a free spirit that enjoyed life and loved to share with others. As I reflected on his life, I thought of the words in Robert Browning's poem "Rabbi Ben Ezra," "Our times are in his hands."

We have just one chance at life, and this is it. As AHIMA CEO Alan Dowling always says, "Life isn't dress rehearsal!"

My response for life is in the words of the late Swedish diplomat Dag Hammarskjöld: "For all that has been, thanks. For all that will be, yes!"

So, press on-this is our chance to shine!

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Driving the Power of Knowledge

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