

# Inspiring Leadership, Influencing Change

Save to myBoK

*By Diann H. Smith, MS, RHIA, CHP, FAHIMA*

Serving the AHIMA membership as president/chair is a great honor and privilege. I'm humbled that you entrusted me to be your leader at a crucial time in our profession. From the very beginning of my career I was fortunate to have the support, encouragement, and mentorship of several HIM professionals.

My first mentor's passion for teaching and mentoring instilled in me the love of volunteering. She took me to local meetings, introduced me to other HIM professionals, and encouraged me to run for office. She taught me the importance of people getting to know what I had to offer, which inspired me to be a servant leader.

Take a brief moment to reflect on who in the profession influenced you early on and made a difference in your career. More importantly, I challenge you to reflect on who you have helped with your guidance and influence to become a better HIM professional.

As your president/chair, I'm committed to lead with a passion and boldness that will challenge each of you to do the same. I ask you to see the potential in others, and to inspire and influence others. I believe anything is possible, but it takes courage, persistence, and embracing lifelong learning. We are in a unique position to inspire leadership and influence change as a vital part of the larger healthcare ecosystem.

Our profession is at a pivotal point as healthcare is changing at lightning speed. New healthcare delivery models are being implemented such as artificial intelligence, natural language processing technology, and value-based purchasing. We are further influenced by the global economy and global healthcare, the use of analytics and informatics, and consumer engagement.

Embracing technology requires lifelong learning and an attitude of "I'm willing to continue developing my skills to be relevant and part of an exciting future in healthcare." In fact, emerging trends and technology should be very high on your list to watch, as this is where we are likely to develop future roles and new opportunities.

As HIM professionals, we must understand the value we bring to our organizations, and seek additional responsibilities. I encourage you to communicate your worth and goals, and to employ creativity when faced with a barrier.

There's no limit to what we can do! Get actively involved in consumer engagement, revenue cycle, revenue integrity, and clinical documentation improvement. Be innovative, be creative, and be BOLD!

To reach new heights in our profession, my focus as president will be on YOU, the members. We have a very rich heritage of rising to challenges. We have evolved and diversified over the past 89 years. AHIMA has a duty to keep our profession relevant and to leverage strategies that will ensure our legacy in the healthcare industry. As members, we also have a responsibility to ourselves, AHIMA, and the profession. Are you engaged? Now is the time to inspire leadership and influence change!

Thank you for this opportunity to serve.

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