

Learning Together at a Global Pace

Save to myBoK

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

“Are you learning as fast as the world is changing?” This thought-provoking question resonated with me as I was thinking about the issues of education, evolution, and progress. *Fast Company* magazine cofounder Bill Taylor describes this question as “a defining challenge of leadership” and identifies some habits of mind that can help us keep learning: Have a wide field of vision, look for new ideas outside your field, and learn from everyone you encounter. “Nobody alone learns as quickly as everybody together,” he writes.¹

It made me realize that HIM professionals, too, need to be learning as fast as the world is changing. To be successful, we all need to be lifelong learners. Gone are the days when we could learn a skill once and expect things to remain the same. We need to learn new skills in our workplace or update our credentials. In many cases, it also means going back to school and getting more formal education. Everyone is busy, and the idea of more education can seem overwhelming. But given the rate of change, we can’t afford not to make this a priority.

Because we want our members to succeed, AHIMA is here to help. We’ve updated our strategy with a clear focus on what’s next. The “Managing the Talent Pipeline” apprenticeship program managed by the AHIMA Foundation helps new professionals enter the workforce. And we are working to provide members with pathways to move into emerging roles. For example, AHIMA will be doing market research this year on emerging roles. We will also be making improvements to our Career Map. Other initiatives, like the HIM Reimagined white paper, are under way to help the profession move toward careers of the future.

This month’s articles center around the themes of education and the profession. In “[Teaching the ‘New’ HIM](#)” Mary Butler explores how higher education programs have adapted in order to teach students skills they need to land in-demand healthcare jobs. Lisa Eramo looks into the success stories of the AHIMA Foundation’s apprenticeship program in “[Building a Talent Pipeline](#).” David Marc and his co-authors share the results of a study that examines the trends in HIM-related careers by looking at online job postings, and discusses what new skills are required in “[What the Data Say About HIM Professional Trends](#).” For some, the HIM profession is a family business. Daniel Land has compiled four stories of people for whom our work is a “[Family Trade](#),” which takes a moment in this current phase of change and uncertainty to reflect on how the past can help inform and drive both the present and future.

Technology and environment, plus government policy, are creating unprecedented change in the HIM profession. Things will not stay the same; don’t say we didn’t warn you. To meet this challenge, AHIMA wants members to get inspired, get the skills, and become leaders. We want to hear from you, too. Let us know your progress and what you are encountering so we can continue to help you in the years ahead.

Note

1. Taylor, Bill. “[Are You Learning as Fast as the World is Changing?](#)” *Harvard Business Review*. January 26, 2012.

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