

Positioning AHIMA for 2007: Involvement in the Profession, Contributions to the Industry

Save to myBoK

by Jill Callahan Dennis, JD, RHIA

Do you set goals for yourself? I do, though some of my personal resolutions never seem to survive the first half of the year. One of my personal goals for 2006 was to have a spotlessly clean desk at the end of every work day. If you could see me right now, you'd see just how unsuccessful that one was!

But I'm happy to report that AHIMA fared far better in meeting its 2006 goals, and 2007 promises to be an exciting year for all of us. As I end my term as your president, I'd like to offer a few goals for our association for the upcoming year.

Setting the Bar for 2007

In 2007 AHIMA will be more visible in efforts surrounding the development of the nationwide health information network. We will have members volunteering on all key state-level demonstration projects, and our contributions will be so practical and valuable that future project conveners won't even imagine working on health information issues without our input.

In 2007 we will study our membership to identify a key group of e-HIM® thought and practice leaders with important knowledge to share, and we'll effectively tap this resource for the benefit of all members.

In 2007 AHIMA will find a way to tap every single member who wishes to volunteer. There's plenty of work to be done, and volunteer opportunities should be open to all who want them.

In 2007 every student looking for a mentor should be able to find one. Mentoring is a great way to honor the HIM professionals who took the time to give you a helping hand when you were starting out.

In 2007 we will explore new approaches to certification for people entering our field laterally. How can we meet new market demands in a way that supports our current educational programs? What does the industry need?

In 2007 AHIMA will renew efforts to attract credentialed nonmembers into membership. Some of these professionals made a decision not to join years ago and aren't aware of the many new benefits of membership at both the state and national levels. How can we work together to reach out to these potential members? I'd love to see some friendly competition between our state associations, targeting the credentialed nonmembers in their states.

In 2007 AHIMA's research agenda should explore and document the contribution HIM professionals make to patient care in a variety of ways. We already believe in "quality healthcare through quality information," but the rest of healthcare needs to believe it as well.

Other Opportunities?

I could come up with about a million more; however, if we're going to be successful, we need to focus on what matters most. So let me ask you: what matters most to you? If you could write a resolution for AHIMA in 2007, what would it be?

It's been a great privilege to work with and for you this year. My wish for you in 2007 is career success, professional growth, good health, and—above all—happiness.

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