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2020 AHDi Integrity Award Winners Announced

MODESTO, CA, August 26, 2020—In support of AHDi’s professional programs, standards, and best practices, the Association conducts an annual awards program to acknowledge the significant contributions of its members and other individuals and organizations that have made an impact on the healthcare documentation sector over the previous year. The Association is proud to promote and honor those who have supported the professional practice standards and goals that AHDi has developed for advancing the profession and positioning this sector for continued relevance in the future of healthcare delivery.

Congratulations to all of these dedicated members. Award winners were announced during AHDi’s Healthcare Documentation Integrity Virtual Conference (HDIVC) Friday, August 14, 2020.

ADVOCATE OF THE YEAR AWARD: Laura Bryan, MS, MT(ASCP), CHDS, AHDi-F

Laura has served in key roles on critical committees, drafting important standards papers, speaking and presenting across the association year-round, training and teaching our members on the evolution of technology, and supporting AHDi staff with technical expertise. She serves as the AHDi representative on the HIMSS Health Story Leadership Council and was particularly recognized for the work she’s done and the leadership she’s provided as chair of the *Book of Style and Standards for Clinical Documentation* (4th edition) Development Team. She is a true professional in every sense of the word, gifted in her ability to teach, and undeniably dedicated to everything she takes on. Past integrity awards Laura received include the Advocate of the Year award in 2009, Lifetime Achievement award in 2011, and the Distinguished Service award in 2019.

The Advocate of the Year award recognizes an individual for outstanding advocacy activities related to advancement of the healthcare documentation profession.

EDUCATOR OF THE YEAR AWARD: Heather Ramsay, BA, Med, RHN

Heather has been an educator for 16 years and is an enthusiastic life-long learner, having earned a Master of Education degree while teaching full-time in the Medical Support Services program. She also became a certified peer review for MERLOT—Multimedia Education Resource for Learning and Online Teaching—and takes part in as many professional development opportunities as possible, to include a five-week Technology-Enabled Learning certificate from Athabasca University and the Commonwealth of Learning, attending the first annual AHDi virtual conference in August of 2019, and finishing a six-session webinar series on iridology while she works toward her board certification as a holistic wellness

practitioner. These experiences and other professional and personal development opportunities positively affect her teaching and interactions with students and other professionals.

The Educator of the Year award recognizes an Individual Professional member who has demonstrated excellence in healthcare documentation education as a program instructor or coordinator, a contributor to AHDI educational programs, or an instructor of continuing education programs for the healthcare documentation community.

EMPLOYER OF THE YEAR AWARD: Mayo Clinic

Mayo Clinic exhibited strength in their adherence to its values statement—they put the patient first through honoring and cherishing Respect, Integrity, Compassion, Healing, Teamwork, Innovation, Excellence and Stewardship. Mayo Clinic demonstrated its values system by providing extra work for its employed HDSs when the workload diminished due to COVID-19 by forming special projects that expanded the skillset of HDSs and introduced them to other HIM functions, as well as encouraged they take formal internal courses on Microsoft products and to undergo systematic problem-solving training and obtain quality certification.

The Employer of the Year Award is presented to an AHDI corporate or individual professional member employer who has demonstrated outstanding commitment to the professional development of our workforce and support of AHDI's professional practice, credentialing, and continuing education goals.

MEMBER OF THE YEAR AWARD: Julia Dyviniak, CHDS, AHDI-F

Julia has been a very active volunteer over her many years as a member on both the component and national levels. Most recently, she has been instrumental in leading the Webinar Education Task Force and has served on the Welcome Team. She also is newly elected to the Board of Directors. Her leadership style is encouraging and motivates others to step outside their comfort zone, try new things, and follow through with their commitments. She is an active listener and leads by example.

The Member of the Year award serves to recognize an individual for outstanding contribution to the AHDI through relevant service and activities that have advanced the mission, goals, and objectives of the Association.

RISING STAR AWARD: Brandy Unruh

In honor of educator Marilyn Craddock, the Rising Star Award recognizes an outstanding industry student for a contemplative and informed response to the association's annual essay contest. This year's essay topic was "Breaking Boundaries—How High Will You Soar?" Judging was based on clarity of content, organization, creativity, spelling, and grammar.

DISTINGUISHED SERVICE AWARD: Colleen Chapman of CanScribe Career College

Colleen's contributions over the years have been numerous and we want to recognize some of the many ways she has shown her support of AHDI. Her company has sponsored and/or exhibited at almost every annual conference since 2005. They have been a supporter of the Building Futures Program, which continues to allow students to reap the benefits of AHDI membership at no cost to them.

Her company requires their instructors to hold AHDI credentials and encourages them to get involved with AHDI. Not only has our award nominee served on many committees and task forces over the years,

but many of her staff and students have as well. We congratulate her for setting her students up for success by always providing access to AHDl's *Book of Style*.

The Distinguished Service Award serves to recognize an individual or organization that has demonstrated consistent support of the Association, its goals and objectives, and the profession through services rendered to the industry, sponsorship of AHDl events and projects, and/or contribution of content expertise and leadership in key AHDl initiatives. This honor is awarded by the AHDl National Leadership Board.

LIFETIME ACHIEVEMENT AWARD: Sandy Shumaker, CMT, AHDl-F

Sandy's contributions over the years have been numerous, as she has always been a strong supporter of AHDl's mission, goals, and objectives. Not only has she touched the lives of so many healthcare documentation professionals over the years, but her contributions to AHDl have had a resounding and lasting impact. Her company often sponsored and supported employees in continuing educational opportunities, and she also provided leadership and guidance to the Orange County chapter of AHDl, AHDl-West, and AHDl. Sandy is admired, respected, and loved by many for her distinguished lifetime commitment to our industry and to AHDl.

The Lifetime Achievement Award serves to recognize an individual who has made significant contributions to the Association and industry over the course of his/her professional career and has left a resonating footprint on the Association and its members. This is the highest honor bestowed by AHDl and is awarded by the AHDl National Leadership Board.

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About AHDl

The [Association for Healthcare Documentation Integrity](http://www.ahdionline.org) (AHDl) is a not-for-profit association representing the individuals and organizations in healthcare documentation. AHDl leads, educates, and advocates for professional excellence and integrity in healthcare documentation policies and practices. We envision a future where optimal healthcare delivery and outcomes are facilitated by complete, accurate, and timely clinical documentation to convey patient health stories. Learn more about AHDl by visiting our website, www.ahdionline.org.