



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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2023 AHDI Integrity Award Winners Announced

MODESTO, CA, August 17, 2023—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 these dedicated members. Award winners were announced during AHDI’s Healthcare Documentation Integrity Virtual Conference (HDIVC) Wednesday, August 9, 2023.

CIRCLE OF EXCELLENCE AWARD: CanScribe Career College Academic Department Instructional Team: Sara Berry, CHDS; Caitlin Bourbonnais, CHDS; Leslie Meger, CHDS; Laurie Monks, CHDS; and Lisa Thompson, CHDS

Our winner includes a team of educators whose commitment, enthusiasm, and unwavering focus toward students’ education and the institution itself are said to be unparalleled. Each instructor has earned their CHDS credential and strongly advocates for credentialing in the healthcare documentation field. They are all committed to continuing education, attend AHDI’s annual conferences, and provide invaluable learning opportunities.

The Circle of Excellence award serves to recognize a group or team of individuals who work in the healthcare documentation industry for outstanding accomplishment within a healthcare organization.

EDUCATOR OF THE YEAR AWARD: Julie Staal, CHDS, AHDI-F

Julie takes full ownership of her role to ensure that their team has everything needed to safeguard the integrity of patient health records. She prioritizes appreciation and recognition for each team member and their skills. Julie coordinates onboarding and training of auditors, oversees the new auditor mentoring process, and develops annual competencies she incorporates fun activities for staff learning by actively seeking information to keep the team prepared and informed on upcoming changes that will impact the department.

This award serves to recognize an individual professional member who has demonstrated excellence in the area of healthcare documentation education.

EXCELLENCE IN CREDENTIALING AWARD: Carol Waddell, CHDS, CHDP, AHDI-F

Carol has served on the AHDI Board of Directors and continues to serve the association by contributing to the ACCP, having helped to review and update the Model Curriculum, 6e, and the Education Approval Manual. She also serves on the Credentialing Commission, helping create new exam blueprints and writing for our new exams. Her desire for life-long learning and continuing education shines through in all that she does.

The Excellence in Credentialing award serves to recognize a credentialed professional who has demonstrated a unique and measurable contribution to the industry through promotion of professional credentialing.

INFLUENCER OF THE YEAR AWARD: Webinar Education Task Force: Sandy Shumaker, CMT, AHDI-F; Laura Bryan, MS, CHDS, AHDI-F; Julie Dyviniak, CHDS, AHDI-F; Stephanie Kinney, RHIT, CMT-R, AHDI-F; Rose Hayden, CMT, AHDI-F; Deb Palmer, CHDS; Tina Wilson; Kristin Wall, CHDS, CHDP, AHDI-F

The members of this committee meet year-round and are committed to seeking and securing speakers to present interesting, relevant, and timely educational webinars throughout the year for our industry's practitioners and students, and that meet the continuing education and credentialing requirements that enhance HDSs' professional knowledge and help them keep abreast of new technologies and medical trends.

Our new Influencer of the Year award recognizes an individual or group of individuals for outstanding contribution to the healthcare documentation industry through service and activities that advance the mission, goals, and objectives of AHDI.

RISING STAR AWARD: Laurel Bentley

Laurel's essay spoke of her journey in healthcare when she became a care aide but found working outside of the home while raising a family challenging. She knew medical transcription was an opportunity for her to soar again. Laurel stated she now has an incredible career and has gained confidence by expanding her knowledge and skills. She believes if you are willing to persevere and believe in yourself, you can soar to new heights.

In honor of educator Marilyn Craddock, this award serves to recognize an outstanding industry student or postgraduate for a contemplative and informed response to the Association's annual essay contest. The topic for this year's essay, appropriately, was "Soaring to New Heights."

SCHOOL OF EXCELLENCE AWARD: Carrus/CareerStep

Carrus/CareerStep has been an educational member of AHDI for many years and a sponsor of the Building Futures program. Their Healthcare Documentation Editor program has been approved by AHDI and the ACCP since 2009. They continued to improve and build on the core foundation of the program, updating the learning platform, making the course more succinct, and aligning with the BOSS4CD and Model Curriculum 6e.

The School of Excellence award serves to recognize an Educational or Individual Professional member who employs instructors of healthcare documentation courses, for outstanding commitment to the professional development of its students and their success.

DISTINGUISHED SERVICE AWARD: Cyndi Sandusky, CHDS, CHDP, AHDI-F

Cyndi has been a member of AHDI since 2001 and has participated in the Research and Development, Bylaws, Conference Program, and Ethics Committees. Her service on the Credentialing Commission since 2018 is commendable. She has led the Commission and the item-writing groups over the last year and a half, developing items for the RHDS, CHDS, CVHDP, and CHDP credentials and the Auditor and Scribe microcredentials, exams, practice exams, and prep materials. She served on the BOD from 2018 to 2021 and as Secretary for two terms. She has been one of the most dedicated volunteers AHDI has had, always leading by example.

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 AHDI events and projects, and/or contribution of content expertise and leadership in key AHDI initiatives. This honor is awarded by the AHDI National Leadership Board.

LIFETIME ACHIEVEMENT AWARD: Stephanie Kinney, RHIT, CMT-R, AHDI-F

Stephanie has been a member and active participant since joining AHDI in 1979. She's been a medical transcriptionist for 46 years, having earned her CMT in 1979 and her RHIT in 1984. She has been involved at the local, state, and regional levels of AHDI in the South-Central Chapter of West Michigan, the Michigan Association, and the Great Lakes Region, serving in a variety of roles and on numerous committees. Many who know her say that she has been an advocate of AHDI for as long as they have known her. In fact, there are several current and past board members serving in their roles because of her encouragement.

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 AHDI and is awarded by the AHDI National Leadership Board.

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About AHDI

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