

# F.Y.I. about H.I.M.

News from the Health Information Management Programs

May 2004

## **DSU Commencement is May 8, 2004**

The graduation ceremony for Dakota State University will be held on Saturday, May 8th. The HIM Program is proud to congratulate the graduates who will be receiving degrees in health information administration and health information technology, as well as the healthcare coding certificate program. Six graduates will be receiving the baccalaureate degree (HIA), seven students have earned the associate degree (HIT), and there are 10 students completing the requirements for the healthcare coding certificate.



The health information management students honored these graduates at the annual HIM Club Spring banquet which was held on April 21st. Each graduate received a certificate and gift from the HIM Club. Renae Spohn, MBA, RHIA, CPHQ, Director of Quality Improvement for the Good Samaritan Society was the keynote speaker at the banquet.

## **HIM Students Selected as "O Leaders"**

Two HIM students, Stacey Plooster and Christi Lamb, have been selected to be "O Leaders"

The "O Leaders" is a group of DSU students that will serve as mentors, role models, group leaders and guides to incoming students. They will play an integral part in the new student orientation program. It is an honor to be chosen considering the significant contribution these students will be making to the University and to the future success of incoming students.

Congratulations to these students!

## **Supervised Professional Practices**

During Summer 2004, students will be completing supervised professional practices (internships) at healthcare facilities. There are currently 55 experiences scheduled, in South Dakota, Alaska, Oregon, and Minnesota in hospitals, clinics, long term care facilities, attorney offices and consulting firms. The supervised professional practices range from 40 to 160 hours spent working at the site.

DSU graduates  
continue to have  
100% pass rate on  
national RHIT and  
RHIA exams!!

## **SD Department of Labor System Registers HIM Program Offerings**

The South Dakota Department of Labor has included the HIM degree and certificate offerings from DSU as part of the SDDOL Training Providers and Program Performance System. This means that students may be eligible for assistance through the Workforce Investment Act. The Workforce Investment Act (WIA) is an employment and training program designed to provide services that will increase skills for adults and youth that will result in employment and an increase in earnings. One aspect of WIA is Occupational Skill Training, which is formal training from an educational institution that develops the necessary skills to obtain employment.

(<http://www.state.sd.us/dol/WIA>)

SDHIMA offers scholarships to HIM students – see [www.sdhima.dsu.edu](http://www.sdhima.dsu.edu).

## **Contact the Health Information Management Programs:**

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[www.departments.dsu.edu/him](http://www.departments.dsu.edu/him)



DSU HIM Program will celebrate  
30 years in 2005!!

### ***Congratulations!!***



The HIM Program is very proud to recognize a former faculty member and program director as the recipient of Dakota State University's Outstanding Business Leader Award. Lora DeWald, Vice President of Health Information Management for Avera Health, received this recognition for her outstanding leadership and many contributions to the HIM profession. Lora was on the faculty at DSU from 1976-1983.

The Health Information Management Club of DSU was also honored recently for their many accomplishments. The HIM Club received the President's Club Certificate of Merit. This is the highest honor achieved by a campus organization with a membership of 10 or greater. The HIM Club also received the SD Board of Regents Award for Organizational Leadership. Stacey Plooster, HIM Club President accepted the awards on behalf of the club members.



### **HIM Club Members Complete Projects at Healthcare Facilities**

During this academic year, several HIM Club members helped area healthcare facilities complete projects related to their medical record storage. Records were organized and purged for more efficient storage and retrieval. These projects are wonderful opportunities for the students to gain some "real life" experience and also are beneficial to the facilities who find skilled volunteers working with the medical records to be very helpful.

### **HIA Admission Process**

During Spring 2004, ten students completed the HIA Admission Process including the panel interview. Thank you to Renae Spohn, LeAnne Bouma, and Mary Nelson for being the HIM practitioners who assisted with the interviews. Students may be enrolled in courses with the exception of the final supervised professional practice prior to successfully completing the Admission Process into the HIA major.

### **National Health Information Privacy and Security Week Celebrated by DSU HIM Program**

April 11-17 was designated as National Health Information Privacy and Security Week. This week was designed to raise awareness of the importance of protecting the privacy, confidentiality, and security of personal health information.

In recognition of this time, one of the activities planned for HIPS week at DSU was having two guest speakers coming to HIM 170 (Legal Aspects class) to talk about privacy and security of health records. Betty Hieb, RHIA, Director of HIM/Privacy Officer at Avera Queen of Peace Hospital, and Patti Brooks, RHIA, Director of the IS Dept/ Security Officer at Avera Queen of Peace Hospital were the speakers.

HIM students also provided information through posters and emails distributed around campus and an article was supplied for the local news media.



### **Students Provide Inservice Education**

All health information administration students at DSU complete a course called HIM 450 Research in Health Information Administration. Part of the requirements for this course involves research and presentation of an aspect of HIM. Each student is asked to work with a healthcare facility to identify an educational need for the staff and employees. The HIM students then prepare and present an inservice to help meet that need. Topics have ranged from confidentiality and privacy to ICD-10 coding.

