

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

News from the Health Information Management Programs

November 2003

## Healthcare Coding Certificate at DSU Receives National Approval

The healthcare coding certificate program at Dakota State University was recently awarded national approval from the Council of Accreditation of the American Health Information Management Program. The review process demonstrates the program's compliance with established criteria and recognizes DSU's commitment to quality education. This is only one of approximately 14 approved coding certificate programs in the nation, and the only one offered in South Dakota. Courses are available at the Madison DSU campus, at USDSU in Sioux Falls, and via the Internet.

DSU has been providing education in the medical record/health information management field for over 25 years and has been growing and changing to meet the needs of the industry. An associate degree in health information technology and a baccalaureate degree in health information administration are offered by DSU in addition to the healthcare coding certificate.

## SCHOLARSHIP WINNERS ANNOUNCED

The South Dakota Health Information Management Association awards \$1500 in scholarships each year to students in the Health Information Management Program at Dakota State University. SDHIMA is very pleased to announce that three \$500 scholarships have been awarded for the 2003-2004 academic year. The award recipients are Katherine Carson, Jill Degen, and Amanda Miedema.

In addition, two national scholarships from the American Health Information Management Association were awarded to HIM students from DSU. The recipients of these awards are Antoinette Kettner and Mary O'Leary.

We celebrate with these hard-working, bright students! Congratulations!

## Conferences Offer HIM Educational Experiences

During the Fall 2003 Semester the Health Information Management faculty and students attended the South Dakota Association of Healthcare Organization's Fall Convention in Sioux Falls, SD. This convention also included the Fall SDHIMA meeting. There were a number of very informative speakers and demonstrations over the three day event.

The Fall meeting of the SD Medical Transcription Association was also attended by faculty.

The American Health Information Management Association's national convention was held in Minneapolis, MN this year. Eleven DSU representatives were in attendance, including 8 students from the HIM Club. This convention, with several educational tracks related to HIM, had over 3900 attendees from across the nation and was also the celebration of the association's 75th anniversary. The students also had the opportunity to attend the AHIMA Assembly on Education's Student Forum.



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## HOTT — Health Occupations for Today and Tomorrow

The Health Information Management Programs are looking forward to opportunities to assist with HOTT (Health Occupations for Today and Tomorrow). HOTT is a new initiative focusing on health career opportunities. This program is sponsored jointly by the South Dakota Departments of Education and Health to enable students to learn about and experience health career pathways. Students will have an opportunity to connect with colleges, universities and technical institutes for the career areas they are interested in. HOTT provides prospective students with information and a better understanding of the academic and technical requirements for a chosen field. All programs are offered in partnerships with healthcare providers. Future plans including health occupation curriculum into K-12 curriculum as well as holding health career academies and health occupations courses for high school credit.



The faculty, staff and students of the HIM Program are very pleased to celebrate Health Information and Technology Week on November 2-8, 2003. This

week has been designated by the American Health Information Management Association to recognize the work of those healthcare professionals who maintain and protect the health information of Americans nationwide. Various activities are planned to be held during that week.



Dorine Bennett was recently elected by the AHIMA House of Delegates to be a member of the national 2004 Nominating Committee. Each year future leaders of the Board of Directors, the Council on Accreditation, and the Council on Certification are selected through a national election. The Nominating Committee, based on criteria for the elected positions, selects the slate of candidates for the election.

Bennett will also serve a two-year term on the AHIMA Council of Accreditation. The Council on Accreditation establishes, maintains, and promotes appropriate standards of quality for educational programs in health information management and provides recognition for educational programs which meet or exceed these minimum standards. Council members actually review reports from accreditation surveys and interim reports from programs and make recommendations on accreditation to the Commission on Accreditation of Allied Health Education Programs. The Council also develops accreditation standards and policies and procedures for Association-sponsored accreditation services.

Dorine Bennett, Director of the Health Information Management Program at Dakota State University has been awarded the South Dakota Health Information Management Association's Volunteer Award. In addition, members of the South Dakota Health Information Management Association have nominated her for this award on the national level. The AHIMA Volunteer Award honors leaders who make significant volunteer contributions on behalf of AHIMA in national, state, or local AHIMA activities.

Ms. Bennett is a past president of the South Dakota Health Information Management Association and has served on a number of state and national committees for the health information management associations. She is also a site reviewer for the accreditation process for health information management educational programs.

## Health Information Management Club

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

DSU's Health Information Management Club has had a very good Fall semester. The students participated in the Activities Fair, the DSU Wellness Fair, and the Madison Community's Health Fair as well as the DSU Homecoming Parade. They also provided community service by adopting a portion of Highway 19 near Madison to clear of litter.

In November, the HIM Club will be holding a joint-meeting with both the Madison campus and the USDSU Center student in Sioux Falls using the Dakota Digital Network to communicate with live video and audio.

## HIM Program is Growing

This Fall, there are 19 students seeking the associate degree in health information technology, 35 students with declared baccalaureate in health information administration majors, and 4 students seeking the healthcare coding certificate. In addition, there are approximately 18 students who are working on transfer coursework. It has been very interesting to have students in classes on campus, in Sioux Falls and via the Internet.



## Dakota Corps Scholarship Program

The Dakota Corps Scholarship Program was created by Governor Rounds to provide renewable scholarship funds and applicable fees to students pursuing a degree of study to enter a critical need occupation in SD. Some of the careers identified are nursing or other allied health care fields. Other allied health fields include those health professionals that support and complement the roles of physicians, nurses, and other health care specialist. Health information management will be considered as one of fields that may be a critical need occupation.