

## HONORING MEMBER EXCELLENCE

### 2024 CHIA Recognition and Student Scholarship Award Recipients

*The CHIA Recognition Awards are designed to encourage, nurture, and celebrate exceptional volunteerism and professional leadership within the health information community. The CHIA Board of Directors and the CHIA Awards and Scholarship Committee are pleased to congratulate the recipients of the 2024 CHIA Recognition Awards, which are presented during CHIACON24.*

#### **DISTINGUISHED MEMBER**

*The CHIA Distinguished Member Award is CHIA's highest award and honors a member who has shown exemplary leadership within the association and has made outstanding contributions to the health information profession.*

**Roberta Baranda, MS, RHIA, CHP** has proven to be an accomplished health information (HI) professional, working in the California HI field for over 37 years. She radiates her passion for the advancement of health information in everything she touches, from her career accomplishments to her many CHIA volunteer commitments which include serving as CHIA President 2022-2023. Her commitment to making a difference motivates others. Roberta has tirelessly mentored students throughout her extensive career, either by being an instructor at one of the local colleges or bringing students into her workplace to complete their professional practicums for graduation.

Roberta's energetic personality and ability to promote diversity have attracted many to the health information (HI) profession. With her tenacity, passion, and drive, she continues to set an example and raise the bar. Regardless of where one is in their career cycle, Roberta has become a mentor and driving force to many HI professionals. She is the true definition of a 'Distinguished Health Information Professional' and what we strive to be!

#### **EDUCATOR**

*The CHIA Educator Award honors those who demonstrate excellence in preparing the next generation of professionals for careers in the health information profession that is dependent upon a continual influx of well-trained new talent.*

**Braden Michael Tabisula, MBA, RHIA, CHDA** is an accomplished professional dedicated over ten years to educating and preparing health information and health informatics professionals. He is a full-time Assistant Professor and the Program Coordinator for the Master of Science in Health Informatics program at *Loma Linda*. He is also a Computer Information Systems and Technology doctoral student, demonstrating his commitment to

lifelong learning. His extensive technical knowledge and skills are advantageous for students and colleagues alike.

Braden willingly shares his knowledge by publishing articles in professional journals, creating presentations and performing peer reviews. He has volunteered as Chair of the CHIA Editorial Advisory Board (EAB) for two years; served as Commissioner on the Certification for Health Informatics and Health Information (CCHIM); is a member of the Council for Excellence in Education (CEE) as well as the Informatics and Data Analytics Practice Council. He received the CHIA Literary Award in 2019 for contributing to the HIM profession through published materials.

Braden exemplifies the essence of the CHIA Educator Award by his passion for teaching and guiding students on a pathway of continual learning.

## **MENTOR**

*The CHIA Mentor Award honors a member that has demonstrated excellence in mentoring and encouraging colleagues or students to realize their full potential or has helped them find ways to achieve their best.*

***This year we recognize two amazing members for the CHIA Mentor Award:***

**Kamar Braish, MS, RHIA** for the past 20 years has been an inspiration to many including HIM staff, colleagues, emerging professionals and students throughout California. She has actively mentored members of AHIMA, CHIA, GOCHIA and NCHIA. Kamar continues working with HIT and HIM students from various colleges and has hosted multiple directive practice rotations. One of her students beautifully summed up how Kamar is the meaning of mentor, “Kamar provided valuable guidance, encouragement, and shared her passion for the HIM profession.”

**Frieda Smith, RHIA**, is an accomplished health information (HI) professional and a seasoned mentor for the last twenty years. Frieda “leads by example.” No matter what role her HI colleague may have, whether a student, an ‘up and coming’ professional, or an HI professional with longevity, Frieda makes a positive impact on all.

Frieda has held several roles in health information throughout her career and several positions within CHIA, including committee member, CHIA director, and most recently CHIA president-elect. Her passion and energy for the advancement of the HI professional resonate with all who have been privileged to know and work with her.

## HIM INDUSTRY CHAMPION

*The CHIA HIM Industry Champion Award recognizes those who have worked tirelessly to support the health information profession by advancing CHIA's leadership position. The recipients of this award may be individuals, organizations, or companies that have worked with CHIA in supporting key initiatives by promoting the interests of the health information profession.*

**Kristen Borth, MS, RHIA** is currently the Health Information Technology Program Director and a tenured professor at *Consumnes River College*. Kristen began as program lead, where she created and implemented a whole new teaching curriculum for the program. Her passion for HIT enabled her to excel at this task. The program thrived and the school received an accreditation through 2030.

“Kristen is very hands-on and cares about the students’ success”, stated one of her students. Through Kristen’s work, a scholarship was established that she helped to fund. The *Consumnes River College HIT Stars Scholarship* is available to students in the program.

In addition to her collegiate work, she serves as the CEO of *Primeau Consulting* where she is committed to bringing the company to new heights as it continues to thrive in the industry. Kristen has been involved with CHIA since 2015, serving in various roles, including co-lead on the social media committee and serving on the academic and legislative committees. This year, Kristen will be one of five individuals representing CHIA at the AHIMA House of Delegates. As part of Kristen’s commitment to CHIA, she continues to support key initiatives and promotes the interest of the health information profession in all she does.

## VOLUNTEER

*The Volunteer Award honors members who have served consistently as exemplary volunteers supporting CHIA's mission. Candidates should have exceptional and consistent (minimum of three years) service that has contributed to the advancement of the profession.*

**Daniel Castanon, RHIA**, is an asset to any organization where he volunteers. He is devoted and always strives to produce high-quality work. Daniel is dependable and dedicated to CHIA. He is known for his willingness to help colleagues in any way. Daniel often mentors members seeking clarification on the association's policies and procedures. He always exhibits compassion and generosity.

Daniel has held various volunteer positions and has never been afraid to take on challenging roles. His integrity, character, and commitment to envisioning a better health information profession through necessary change and work bring positive change to the health information profession and the lives of those he touches.

Daniel's significant contributions to the profession and to CHIA make him stand out as one of the most genuine volunteers for our association. He is the essence of the CHIA 2024 Volunteer Award.

### **HIIM PROGRAM GRANT**

*The Health Informatics and Information Management (HIIM) Program Grants are awarded to programs to support improvements in teaching and learning and to help meet the special needs of the programs in California. In 2024 the HIIM Program Grant of \$2,500 is awarded to the Health Informatics, Information Management and Administration (HIIMA) program at Loma Linda University.*

#### ***Congratulations to Loma Linda University (LLU).***

***Loma Linda University*** started a medical records administration program in 1963 as part of its mission of “educating ethical and proficient Christian health professionals and scholars through instruction, example, and the pursuit of truth” (LLU, 2019).

Today, LLU proudly offers four programs within the Health Informatics, Information Management and Administration (HIIMA) Department. Two of those programs, are a Bachelor of Science in Health Information Management (BSHIM) degree and a Master of Science degree in Health Informatics (MSHI), offering students the opportunity to apply for a paid internship program – the *Electronic Health Record (EHR) Business Internship*.

LLU will be using the grant funds to support the *E.HR Epic Business Internship program*. This includes a paid internship working in the Information Services (IS) Department at *Loma Linda University Health*, where the intern will receive hands-on experience while training to become proficient in an application of Epic's E.HR platform. Part-time adjunct faculty are available to interns to guide and support this rigorous program.