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## 2017 AHDI Integrity Award Winners

**SAN ANTONIO, TX, July 14, 2017**—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 Conference (HDIC) in San Antonio, Texas.

### **RISING STAR AWARD: Molly Ferriter (attends Everett Community College)**

Molly eloquently wrote about trends in healthcare and issues our sector is facing, stating, “The only way to respond to a trend is to be ahead of it. Changes in the medical documentation field do not occur overnight. We must keep ourselves aware of political changes and proposed mandates and laws that could ultimately affect our field.” She further emphasized, “We must not be afraid to speak up for our profession. We must speak out on topics such as outsourcing and EMRs. We can lead the direction of the medical documentation field if we stay informed and stay active in the national debate. We must do what we can to lead the change, not just respond to it.”

*The Rising Star Award is presented to an outstanding (active) industry student who presented a contemplative and informed response to the Association’s annual essay contest. The 2017 essay topic was “Take the Reins to Success in Healthcare Documentation.”*

### **EDUCATOR OF THE YEAR AWARD: Sue Krajewski, CMT, AHDI-F**

As a forward thinking, dedicated educator, Sue was the driving force behind AHDI-West’s Student Success Week. Sue led her focus group through several meetings and discussions around potential topics and events that would be beneficial to students. By serving on various educational-related AHDI groups, Sue has demonstrated a willingness to volunteer to improve the quality of education for all healthcare documentation students. She is an active volunteer member of AHDI’s Educators Alliance Steering Committee and the Credentialing Commission for Healthcare Documentation.

*The Educator of the Year Award is presented to an AHDI individual professional member who has demonstrated excellence in the area of education.*

### **EXCELLENCE IN CREDENTIALING AWARD: Angela Allison, CHDS**

Angela has a true desire to improve the healthcare documentation industry and firmly believes credentialing is the key to a successful healthcare documentation career. Angela successfully persuaded the Mayo Clinic's leadership to test a pilot program, which became a well-organized virtual study program for all Mayo Clinic employees who have a goal to earn their RHDS or CHDS. Due to the success of the pilot program, credentialing study work groups are offered on a regular basis. The success rate thus far has been 100% of participants earning their goal credentials upon examination.

*This award serves to recognize a credentialed professional who has demonstrated a unique and measurable contribution to the industry through promotion of professional credentialing through either sustained, long-term support or through a unique, high-impact contribution made to the credentialing program/process during the calendar year prior to nomination.*

### **MEMBERSHIP IMPACT AWARD: AHDI-West Regional**

AHDI-West has a variety of accomplishments spearheaded by a team of dedicated volunteer members. Year-after-year, this group finds creative ways to implement AHDI's strategic goals and engage members across a large geographic footprint. A clear example of this component's innovative approach can be found in their work to support AHDI's growing student body. They created a new Student Liaison position on their Board of Governors and hosted a virtual "Student Success Week" in 2016 and 2017.

*The Membership Impact Award is presented to an AHDI component that has engaged in unique initiatives and activities which have measurably impacted component growth, retention, and/or professional development of its members over a two-year period.*

### **EMPLOYER OF THE YEAR AWARD: Mayo Clinic Documentation Services**

As one of the world's leading medical research, clinical, and educational institutions, the Mayo Clinic recognizes the value and skillset of the healthcare documentation specialist. They recognize their HDSs' analytical skills, critical thinking, and medical language expertise. Furthermore, the organization is building a strong provider-created documentation quality assurance program. Mayo Clinic supports credentialing and AHDI membership with tools in place to assist MTs with obtaining 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: Valerie Purdy, CHDS**

Valerie is a past president of AHDI-West. It is well known that she always goes out of her way to engage with new members. Under her presidency, she worked diligently to launch the first Student Success Week, encouraged the board to develop a position for a student liaison, and encourages engagement by traveling for Coffee Talks, as well as through social media.

*The Member of the Year Award is presented to an individual who has made an outstanding contribution to AHDI through relevant service and activities that have advanced the mission, goals, and objectives of the Association.*

**DISTINGUISHED SERVICE AWARD: Kat King, ASHI, AHDI-F**

Kat has served on the regional association’s board since its inception and has been involved in many of the component’s programs, projects, and services. Her volunteerism extends to AHDI’s national committees and she is currently a member of the Advocacy Alliance Steering Committee. She’s been a speaker, host, and author for AHDI programs and publications. In addition to contributing her subject matter expertise, her passion is always shining bright and she inspires many to follow her lead.

*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: Karen Fox-Acosta, CHDS, AHDI-F**

Karen has served in a variety of AHDI leadership roles for many years, including President, At-Large Director, and District Director. She’s volunteered for numerous committees and ad hoc task forces, which most recently include the Strategic Planning Task Force, Book of Style Development Team, and Nonsense Records Working Group. As one of our leading advocates, she can articulate our positions and present compelling rationale. She radiates intellectual prowess, passion, and compassion. She’s a mentor and friend to many in our AHDI community.

*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 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 AHDI by visiting our website, [www.ahdionline.org](http://www.ahdionline.org).