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2018 AHDi Integrity Award Winners

ORLANDO, FL, August 29, 2018—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 Orlando, Florida.

EDUCATOR OF THE YEAR AWARD: Bessie Williams, CHDS, AHDi-F

Bessie brings a passion with her to both the classroom and the workplace that's infectious, motivating students to not just learn but to do so as the best possible versions of themselves. Her continued drive to help students become job-ready workforce candidates is evident in her interactions with students through outreach and one-on-one follow-up, support, and feedback. She has demonstrated to students the ongoing need for professional development and membership in AHDi by bringing her personal investment in AHDi to the classroom. Bessie has served on AHDi's Credentialing Commission for Healthcare Documentation and is an active member of the Research and Development Team.

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: Mandy Hildenbrand, CHDS

Mandy has a true desire to improve the healthcare documentation industry and firmly believes credentialing is the key to a successful healthcare documentation career. This passion was clearly demonstrated when her employer, Spectrum Health, began requiring that team members hold AHDi credentials and she stepped up to create and facilitate a 12-week study group. She inspired and encouraged participants every step of the way to always remember their mission: "Be encouraged by what you already know and be excited about what you learn in this process." At the time of the submission of her nomination, 50% of those who participated in the study group had already earned their RHDS or CHDS credential.

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. Examples of this component's support of AHDI include social media outreach; hosting a virtual "Student Success Week" in 2016, 2017, and 2018; offering educational webinars and credentialing study courses; and providing support through programs such as AHDI's Building Futures sponsorship in 2017 and 2018.

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: Spectrum Health

Spectrum Health has a long history of commitment to its employees and to the healthcare documentation industry. When the future of traditional dictation/transcription became unclear, they quickly identified new roles that allow HDSs to use their expertise and experience to continue serving the healthcare community. Leaders at Spectrum Health recognize the impact their work has had on quality and patient safety. Spectrum Health supports AHDI and its initiatives as evidenced by the large number of staff who volunteer on local, regional, and national levels. Their commitment to continuing education and staff development is shown by their new requirement in 2018 that all HDSs hold an AHDI credential.

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: Jacque Taylor, AHDI-F, MSP

Jacque was a Director of AHDI in 2006-2008 and 2016-2018 and served in multiple positions at the component level. She is well known for her enthusiasm, positive attitude, and spunky energy. She has been a strong advocate for the healthcare documentation profession and a mentor to many. She has presented numerous educational webinars on a variety of topics. She leads by example and is a lifelong learner herself, including earning a bachelor's degree in Health & Wellness and a master's degree in psychology.

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: Noel Tauzin

Noel has served on the Educational Strategy task force, the Virtual Conference Subgroup, as well as the Membership Development Workgroup, which was instrumental in creating the Building Futures program that provides students with complimentary membership in AHDI, allowing them open access to myriad resources they otherwise wouldn't have, because of the generous financial support of our Building Futures Sponsors. Noel is a true champion and advocate for the healthcare documentation industry, providing support and educational opportunities, promoting the value of AHDI membership and credentials, and motivating others to help us achieve our mission and vision through active volunteerism.

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: Susan Lucci, RHIA, CHPS, CHDS, AHDI-F

Susan has been a good friend and mentor to many in the industry, always exuding positive energy, passion, relatability, and generosity. She has been a longtime member and has served in a variety of AHDI leadership roles for many years, including as President and as an At-Large Director. She has served on myriad committees and ad hoc task forces over the years, written numerous articles for AHDI and other industry publications; has been a conference and webinar speaker many times over, and has contributed to numerous white papers, best practices, and standards documents—most notably the *Healthcare Documentation Quality Assessment and Management Best Practices* toolkit; *The Book of Style*, 4th edition's chapter on Record Privacy, Security, and Integrity; and as the author of *The HIPAA Compliance Guide & Quick Reference*, first and second editions.

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.