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2019 AHDII Integrity Award Winners

MODESTO, CA, August 28, 2019—In support of AHDII'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 AHDII 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 AHDII's Healthcare Documentation Integrity Virtual Conference (HDIVC) Friday, August 16, 2019.

EDUCATOR OF THE YEAR AWARD: Deb Palmer, CHDS

Deb has served on many AHDII committees and actively promotes the value of credentialing. She informs students about AHDII's OWLS Academy and provides information about AHDII and how membership will benefit them throughout their career. She effectively teaches students with a wide variety of skill levels and shares her techniques with other instructors. She facilitates meetings with instructors and educational assistants to ensure consistent grading using the *Book of Style*. She sets a high standard and promotes integrity knowing that she is always striving for perfection, and she leads by example with everything she does.

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

EMPLOYER OF THE YEAR AWARD: Tucson Medical Center

Tucson Medical Center began clinician-created documentation integrity auditing of radiology reports in 2017 and is moving forward with document integrity auditing for acute care documentation. Through the transition of these new programs, their transcription department has not undergone any reduction in workforce.

The Employer of the Year Award is presented to an AHDII corporate or individual professional member employer who has demonstrated outstanding commitment to the professional development of our workforce and support of AHDII's professional practice, credentialing, and continuing education goals.

EXCELLENCE IN CREDENTIALING AWARD: Laura Osborne, CHDS, CHP, CHTS-IM, AHDI-F

Healthcare documentation specialists (HDSs) have been able to contribute in many HIM areas at WVU Medicine, including record corrections, coding, MPI and EMR testing and auditing. Laura has educated leadership at WVU Medicine about the diverse skillset of HDSs through her involvement in HIM projects and committees. Laura always promotes the value of credentialing and has provided sets of RHDS and CHDS study materials and encouraged others to study for the exams, to take on new roles given the growth of WVU Medicine.

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 has found creative ways to implement AHDI's strategic goals and to engage members across a large geographic footprint. Just a few examples of this component's support of AHDI include holding a Student Success Week, creating virtual holiday cards, regularly offering webinars at low cost to support recredentialing efforts, developing and mentoring leaders within their component and AHDI, and contributing as a sponsor in a variety of ways over the years, including ads, campaigns, and AHDI's Building Futures program.

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.

RISING STAR AWARD: Andrea Khan

In honor of educator Marilyn Craddock, the Rising Star Award recognizes an outstanding industry student for a contemplative and informed response to the association's annual essay contest. This year's essay topic was "Tradition Meets Innovation – Determine Your Own Domain." Judging was based on clarity of content, organization, creativity, spelling, and grammar.

DISTINGUISHED SERVICE AWARD: Laura Bryan, MS, MT(ASCP), CHDS, AHDI-F

Laura has served in key roles on critical committees, drafting important standards papers, speaking and presenting across the association year-round, training and teaching our members on the evolution of technology, and supporting AHDI staff with technical expertise. She serves as the AHDI representative on the HIMSS Health Story Leadership Council and was particularly recognized for the work she's done and the leadership she's provided as chair of the *Book of Style and Standards for Clinical Documentation* (4th edition) Development Team. She is a true professional in every sense of the word, gifted in her ability to teach, and undeniably dedicated to everything she takes on. Past integrity awards Laura received include the Advocate of the Year award in 2009 and Lifetime Achievement award in 2011.

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: Sherry Doggett

Sherry's contributions over the years have been numerous, always being a strong supporter of AHDI's mission, goals, and objectives. She was President of the AHDI National Leadership Board from 2011-2012 and completed two terms on the national board. She chaired the Managers/Supervisors Alliance and served on the Turnaround times for Common Document Type task force, Compensation Best Practices task force, Quality Assurance Best Practices task force, Healthcare Documentation Creation Best Practices Toolkit task force, as well as the Nominating and Awards committees. Sherry is also the past recipient of the 2014 Distinguished Service Award. Throughout her career, her generosity to mentor incoming leaders and to set a good example will be remembered for years to come. She has been a guiding light in our association, has such an encouraging spirit, and always has a "can-do" attitude.

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.