



Northwest Iowa
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NEWS RELEASE

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Health Information Professionals Week Touts "Accurate Data, Excellent Care" During 24th Annual Celebration

HIP Week Celebrated March 17–23, 2013

The American Health Information Management Association (AHIMA) will honor and celebrate health information professionals during the 24th annual Health Information Professionals (HIP) Week March 17–23, 2013. This year's theme is "Accurate Data, Excellent Care."

"Health information management (HIM) professionals are a critical linchpin in our healthcare system, and the American Health Information Management Association is proud to recognize the contributions of these individuals," said AHIMA CEO Lynne Thomas Gordon, MBA, RHIA, CAE, FACHE, FAHIMA. "Our hope is Health Information Professionals Week will increase awareness of the vital role HIM professionals play in the success and efficiency of our healthcare system landscape."

HIP Week 2013 will coincide with AHIMA's Hill Day, an event where AHIMA members visit Capitol Hill and share the importance of advancing HIM. Data governance, privacy and security, and fraud and abuse concerns continue to be key issues for HIM professionals, and AHIMA is ready to provide guidance to HIM workers, consumers, and government leaders seeking counsel.

"As new technology and policies evolve, HIM professionals' jobs have drastically changed over time, and they must adapt their skill set to ensure the best patient care and safety," said Ms. Thomas Gordon. "'Accurate Data, Excellent Care' is not only a theme we recognize during this specific week, but one that is at the forefront of our daily work."

Keeping data accurate and secure, while using it as an analytic tool, is one of the biggest challenges healthcare organizations face. While HIP Week acknowledges the past accomplishments of HIM professionals, future endeavors to properly use this data, as it exponentially grows over time, is equally recognized as it will shape future improvements in our healthcare system.

To provide greater public outreach for HIP Week, [AHIMA](#) will again partner with the [Canadian Health Information Management Association](#) to promote the shared goals of both organizations.

About AHIMA

Representing more than 65,000 specially educated HIM professionals in the United States and around the world, the American Health Information Management Association is committed to promoting and advocating for high quality research, best practices, and effective standards in health information, and to actively contributing to the development and advancement of health information professionals worldwide. AHIMA's enduring goal is quality healthcare through quality information. ahima.org

About CHIMA

The Canadian Health Information Management Association was founded in 1942 to provide a national forum for HIM professionals to share their expertise. Its federal charter was obtained in 1949. CHIMA represents more than 3,700 certified HIM professionals from across Canada in addition to 1,300 affiliate, student, and retired members. CHIMA is the certifying body for HIM programs in Canadian colleges and universities, and certifies HIM professionals through the Canadian College of Health Information Management. echima.ca

Local Information: The Health Information Technology (HIT) program at Northwest Iowa Community College began in 1995 with its first graduates obtaining their Associate of Applied Science degree in 1997. Following the 2012 graduations, the total number of HIT program graduates totals 86. In 2010, the medical coding program was added. This program has graduated 11 students with a diploma in this health information specialty area over the past two years. Most of these graduates have jobs in area healthcare facilities.

The **Associate Degree Program at Northwest Iowa Community College** is accredited by the Commission on Accreditation for Health Informatics and Information Management Education (CAHIIM).



For more information, please contact:

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