



ArHIMA Celebrates 75 years!



Thank you, ArHIMA, for allowing me to serve as your President-Elect under the leadership team put together by Tina Cikanek. I am grateful for the opportunities that Tina brought into our team and the expectations she put to the table for us to accomplish through the year. This team of Health Information Professionals and Educators care deeply for our organization and the members we serve. We were challenged to find innovated ways to move our organization toward growth and to carry out the strategic visions that impact the needs of our members that we serve. There is not enough room on this website to detail the countless knowledge and experiences that I have gained throughout this year. Here's to you on a job well done. Now that the groundwork has been laid, as President of the next term, we have the potential to carry forward the progress that has been made and see to it that we fully implement the strategic plans that AHIMA set before us for 2023.

I have also had the privilege of volunteering on various committees in the past eight years that provided me with a greater appreciation for the professionals that volunteer their hard-earned time to be an active part of our success story. Do know that none of the essential work that has been performed through these committees over the years has been taken for granted. We have the potential to carry forth the progress that has kept us moving toward success.

I am simply amazed over the fact that ArHIMA celebrates 75 years as a Component State Association of AHIMA. The majority of our membership are credentialed through AHIMA. There are five colleges or universities in Arkansas that offer formal education in HIM. Our first president was elected in 1947 and her name is Ms. Josephine Knowles. She must have been a great leader for our industry because just a few years later she served another term as president. I have been a member of this organization for over 25 years. I am a proud graduate of one of the HIM programs in Arkansas. These programs that were established in our state remain

the reason I am here today, serving as the President in 2022-2023. I am humbled and honored to be counted among this prestigious list leaders throughout time.

As previously mentioned, we will continue to build from the progress made by our leadership and volunteers that served before us. There are three priorities that were brought to the table that this year that remain the same.

1. Advocating for our profession
2. Mentorship programs for our students and new members
3. Encourage and acknowledge volunteerism

We will work to create innovated ways to network with other members in person and virtually. I encourage each of you to reach out and connect with other members utilizing the tools developed by AHIMA on the ArHIMA Access Community. Find out what is going on in our ever-changing world. Learn about the challenges and purpose that we all share in our profession. This is the way to become an advocate for the things we care about most for the healthcare industry partners that we support.

We will work to build relationships with our students through our Mentorship program which has been acknowledged by AHIMA for its growing success. I challenge you to reflect on the pathway that got you here today, then look into this program as your first volunteer experience to help students and new member with knowledge and networking opportunities in this ever-expanding career field we call our home for our profession.

We will work to find ways to encourage and support those members who actively volunteer time and attention to see us succeed as a state association. Those professionals who want to become a vital part of our initiatives will be selected and placed within committees that will successfully implement our strategic plans and objectives. Volunteers are what make this organization succeed and we want to see our members flourish through this unique opportunity. No one individual, committee or board member can prosper on its own. There is still time and there is still a place for you at the table to bring forth your knowledge and talents to this organization. Welcome to our journey, as we begin to pave new roads for Arkansas Health Information Professionals!

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