

Press Release



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Monday, April 5, 2010

AHIMA APPLAUDS HHS FOR STRENGTHENING COMMITMENT TO HEALTH INFORMATION MANAGEMENT WORKFORCE EDUCATION AND TRAINING

**This statement is attributable to: Alan F. Dowling, PhD
AHIMA Chief Executive Officer**

CHICAGO—"The American Health Information Management Association applauds Secretary Kathleen Sebelius following the April 2 announcement that the HHS Office of the National Coordinator for Health Information Technology will make \$144 million available over the next four years to fund institutions of higher education and research to address the widespread adoption and meaningful use of health information technology.

"With this commitment of resources, health information management, an essential element to the successful adoption of a nationwide electronic health records system by 2014, can accelerate the development of undergraduate and post baccalaureate programs—the type of programs that will allow us to educate the health information management workforce of the future.

"As a profession, health information management has always been wholly devoted to keeping patient health records, and all health information and data, accurate, available and properly protected. AHIMA maintains its commitment to an information management workforce that will rely on electronic health records to improve the overall quality of healthcare delivery.

"We also want to congratulate those academic institutions with programs accredited by the Commission on Accreditation for Health Informatics and Information Management Education (CAHIIM) comprising some of the consortia charged with the design and implementation of the curricula programs that will transform students into well-educated, well-trained and properly credentialed health information management professionals."

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