

Arkansas Tech University

Professional Development Grant

Final Report

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Thank you for allowing me to attend the American Health Information Management Association's (AHIMA) Faculty Development Institute and Assembly on Education (FDI/AOE). This collaborative event brought together educators on all academic levels to discuss and share ideas for health information, including ICD-10 and the newly released competencies. The FDI/AOE Symposium is the premier health information education event offering key information on curricula design, online distance education, accreditation, and leadership skills. Participants learned key benchmarks to prepare for the transition to ICD-10 and the regulations set forth in the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act. Participants explored the innovation, research, and best practices that other professionals are using to shape health information management education. With a special focus on new ideas and data, the Symposium helped educators work to meet program goals in an environment that encourages cooperation. The goal of the Symposium was to deliver the knowledge required for faculty member to enhance the performance of their workforce and the value of health information education.

The new HIM curricula competencies that were introduced allowed for several seminars focusing on ways to implement these. I brought this information back and shared with Dr. Melinda Wilkins, HIM Program Director. Along with her and the other faculty members, these changes are planned to be implemented starting in the fall semester of 2015.

The breakout sessions included a Graduate track. This related to TECH's Masters of Science degree in health informatics. This is a fairly new program offered and we are continuously looking at ways to improve. AHIMA is discussing adding specialty tracks in the master's curricula to include focused areas such as data analysis.

In addition to sharing my findings with Dr. Wilkins, we have an HIM faculty meeting scheduled to discuss how we can implement the required changes and improve our programs (bachelors and masters). I found attending the Faculty Development Institute and the Assembly on Education to be very beneficial. Thank you again for allowing me to attend.