Professional Development Grant Report
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Thank you for allowing me to receive a grant to participate in the American Health Information Management Association's Faculty Development Institute (FDI) and Assembly on Education (AOE) Symposium. I joined more than 400 faculty members from across the globe from all academic levels who came together to share ideas, network, and set the stage for the future of health information management (HIM) education.

We were presented with a number of areas to find resources to use in the classroom. Some include digital, publications, student recruitment, curriculum, faculty advisement and faculty development. Arkansas Tech recently received access to one of the digital resources, AHIMA's virtual lab. The virtual lab is a national website of online HIM software applications and lesson management software to assist educators with offering a full range of HIM technical experiences that are accessible from a web browser. Demonstrations were given on the many ways we could utilize the lab. A publication resource available is instructor materials. Most textbook publishers make supplemental material available for instructors. The trend is to access these lecture slides, answer keys, and workbooks via dedicated sites on the web. Many publishers were there which gave us the chance to evaluate their books and resources. One of the student recruitment resources displayed included www.hicareers.com which is a website to aid interested students in learning about a career in health information, and the various levels of academic pathways leading to credentialing.

An area of great interest to me in which I attended meetings relating to this includes the master's program materials. Arkansas Tech University began a master's program in Health Informatics in 2010 in which we are one of a few in the nation. We received a large amount of information regarding curriculum development, student recruitment, classroom technology, and online technology, as well as guidelines regarding meeting CAHIIM (Council on Accreditation of Health Informatics and Information Management) requirements.

Developing innovative online teaching material was a hot topic. Meetings were conducted to demonstrate on-campus student learning activities being converted to online activities, building innovative student engagement techniques, choosing media option for online learning activities, and developing activities that promote active learning. Our master's program HI classes are all online and these sessions proved to be very helpful to our program.

Another topic of interest to me was best practices in preparing students for the RHIA certification exam. Our students sit for a national exam and upon passing become a Registered Health Information Administrator (RHIA). We evaluated strategies that will optimize student success, curricular enhancements for effective student learning, the importance of review and repetition in student preparation, and other best practice methods for improving the pass rate. Last year, TECH had a 100% passing rate!

This is a critical time for one area of health information, Coding. ICD-10-CM/PCS will soon be taught as a primary coding classification, and the addition of the ONC HITECH curriculum to the national model curricula for HIM is under consideration. The implementation of the ICD-10 coding system is set for October 1, 2014. Our curriculum was modified to begin teaching ICD-10 this fall. Several presentations were given regarding ICD-10.

The FDI/AOE Symposium is a premier health information education event, offering key information on curricula design, online distance education, accreditation, and leadership. Thank you again for allowing me the opportunity to participate.