Editor’s Note

By: Sherisse Monteiro

The 2011 seems like a distant memory and like other recent grads I feel the pressure to get credentialed building. I will admit even though I took classes as independent studies often while enrolled at Laboure College, it is much harder to keep a study schedule when you’re not actively enrolled in a program. The degree becomes your excuse and study time gets chipped away with things you could never do while in school like enjoy free time. With plans to take the exam next spring I encourage other recent grads to take the test when you are ready and don’t get pressured by how much time has lapsed between graduation and your RHIT, RHIA and/or CCS/CCA exams. Stress free success takes time!

Connect Editorial Advisory Board:

I have the pleasure of introducing our Connect Editorial Advisory Board. All of the members are students who reached out to me after reading our calls for student volunteers in past issues. I want to commend them for volunteering their time and efforts to MaHIMA and to Connect.

Wendy Zagroski
Wendy is a current health information student at Fisher college pursuing her associate’s degree. She will graduate in early 2012 and is no stranger to volunteering for MaHIMA. She has served on the Communications Committee and also managed the e-surveys. Wendy continues to find different ways to serve MaHIMA and we thank and commend her for her efforts.

Janene Brome
Janene is a current coding certificate student at Laboure College, she holds a bachelors degree in business management from Curry College and currently works as a customer service specialist at Bank of America. Janene brings a rich business background to our profession as she has also worked for State Street Bank.

Julianne Blanch
Julianne is a current health information student at Fisher College. She works at Mass General Hospital as an operations associate on an inpatient psychiatry floor. Julianne brings a unique knowledge base of inpatient operations to our profession.

Please join me in welcoming Wendy, Janene and Julianne to the Connect Editorial Advisory Board!

President’s Message

By: Mary Radley, RHIA

Calendar of Events:

MaHIMA Winter Meeting & Coding Seminar; January 27, 2012; Woburn Holiday Inn
MaHIMA ICD-10 Summit; March 23, 2012
NE HIMA Annual Conference & AHIMA Long Term Care Conference; May 6-8, 2012; Mohegan Sun, Uncasville, CT
MaHIMA Beacon Hill Day/Joint Meeting with NE HIMSS; May 22, 2012; State House, Boston, MA

Check it out:

Photos from the MaHIMA Dot Wagg Legislative Seminar, November 9, 2011, Dedham Holiday Inn

Congratulations To:

Heather Hedlund, RHIA, CHPS, MaHIMA 2011 HIM Advocacy Award Winner
MaHIMA 2011 Innovation Award Winners: HIM Staff at the following institutions:
- East Boston Neighborhood Health Center
- Emerson Hospital
- Harvard University Health Services
- Morton Hospital
- North Shore Medical Center

And congratulations to the following members who earned AHIMA credentials:
- Siobhan Bartkus, CCS
- Kathleen D. DePaolo, RHIA

FEATURE ARTICLES:

ICD-10 Update
The REC Report
Eligibility Requirements for Coding Credential Exams to Change
January 1
AHIMA Annual Convention Highlights: Salt Lake City, Utah

LEGAL CONNECTIONS:
What's Ahead in 2012

TECHNOLOGY CONNECTIONS:
IOM Reports on HIT and Patient Safety

ATTENTION NEWLY CREDENTIALED & CODERS:
Certification Scholarships Available
MaHIMA Announces New Member Benefit: Discount on Anatomy & Physiology Refresher Course

COMMITTEE CONNECTIONS:
Awards
Communications
Education
Finance
Legislative Affairs
Nominating

TOP
Dear Fellow HIM Professionals,

Happy New Year and best wishes for good health and happiness in 2012. It is hard to believe that my tenure as President is half over already, 2011 has flown by! The past few months have been very busy for MaHIMA with a variety of meetings and initiatives covering a wide range of topics. There are so many changes and projects in the HIM field and we are working hard to provide networking and education sessions that will help all of us to stay ahead of the curve!

- The Fall Meeting on September 23rd had more than 200 registrants, bringing a ‘full house’ to the meeting in Marlboro.
- In October, our delegates went to Salt Lake City for the AHIMA House of Delegates session. This is an awesome experience, and I loved every minute!
- At the AHIMA convention in October, we were on hand to cheer on our own Linda Hyde, as she was recognized by AHIMA with an Advocacy Award!
- October 26th, the Western MA meeting for MaHIMA was hosted at Baystate Medical Center.
- On November 9th, the Dot Wagg Memorial Seminar was a full-day meeting, with a packed agenda with great speakers on different aspects of Release of Information.
- On November 17th, MaHIMA and MAPAM hosted a joint meeting in Marlboro. This meeting was well-attended and the theme was ‘A True Tossed Salad: Accounting, Budgets, Billing, Coding, & Compliance’.
- November 29th, an ICD-10 Forum was held at New England Sinai. This is a new specialty forum that is starting up and will be focused on training and education plans for the transition to ICD-10.
- December 15th – MaHIMA had our first ‘webinar’ meeting which was offered at no cost to members during this first trial using this technology. Luisa DiIeso volunteered her expertise in ICD-10 and provided an excellent training session for members. The registration limit was reached within 48 hours of posting! The feedback on the content for this first webinar was excellent. We will work on fine-tuning the technical setup for these meetings in the future. Stay tuned for additional webinars in the future!
- MaHIMA Innovation Awards were announced and five sites were recognized for a variety of projects and accomplishments. The groups will be presenting an overview of their winning projects at the Winter Meeting.
- The Manager/Director Forum continues to meet and is facilitated by Jackie Raymond. These meetings provide networking opportunities and the discussion topics are determined by the members of this group. There is no charge to attend these meetings, which are hosted at different member sites throughout the state.
- Jeanne Fernandes, Director of Communications, has been working with a group to pilot a new specialty forum for people working in Long Term Care-Post Acute Forum.

SAVE THE DATES! There are many new plans in the works for educational and networking opportunities over the next six months.

- MaHIMA Winter Meeting is scheduled for January 27th at Holiday Inn in Woburn
- MaHIMA ICD-10 Summit is planned for March 23, 2012
- AHIMA Winter Team Talks & Hill Day, scheduled in Washington DC for March 26th & 27th
- May 6-8, 2012, New England Annual Meeting at Mohegan Sun. This year, the AHIMA Long Term Care group will be partnering with the 6-states to offer a parallel track of meetings focused on topics pertinent to long-term care.

We have a very aggressive list of goals and plans for providing education and networking opportunities for our members. Please remember that we can always use new volunteers and new ideas! There are several different committees and the work they do is interesting and rewarding. It is also a good way to network with your peers in the HIM profession. Please consider volunteering with MaHIMA!

I am very thankful to work with so many bright and talented people in MaHIMA! My experience during the last two years on the Board has been very rewarding and I whole-heartedly recommend others to get involved. Feel free to contact me anytime at 617-355-5502, or by email at mary.radley@childrens.harvard.edu.

Best Wishes for the New Year!
COMMITTEE CONNECTIONS:

Awards

Fall 2011 Award Winners Announced

By: Jackie Raymond, RHIA, Chair, Awards Committee

MaHIMA HIM Advocacy Award Winner, 2011:
Heather Hedlund, RHIA, CHPS

HIM Innovation Award Winners, 2011:

- East Boston Neighborhood Health Center (EBNHC) Document Imaging Implementation Team - Collaboration
  Steve Eddington & Elizabeth DeSisto

- Morton Hospital - Health Information Services Dept Team
  Collaboration
  Streamlined Dept processes, e.g. Inpt assembly/analysis, Day Surgery, Correspondence, Delinquent records, Cancer Registry and File Room Purge
  Bibi Von Malder

- Harvard University Health Services (HUHS)
  Outstanding Medical Records Report Project - Best Practice/Collaboration
  Maria Cross

- North Shore Medical Center (NSMC)
  Speech Recognition for Radiology Team - Collaboration
  Susan Raviv

- Emerson Hospital
  Coding Staff - Best Practice/Collaboration/Financial Impact
  Nancy Entwistle

Click here to view photos from the Innovation Award presentations by MaHIMA Board Members.

Communications

Committee Updates

By: Jeanne Fernandes, RHIA, Director, Communications

The Communications Committee has been working to continuously enhance member and public communication regarding MaHIMA and MaHIMA events.

In response to member feedback, the Communications Committee collaborated with the Education Committee to offer our first educational session delivered via webinar. The response exceeded expectations. We will continue to work with the Education Committee to develop our ability to offer pertinent and valuable webinar experiences to our members.
A newly formed team has begun to work on developing a MaHIMA Long Term Care – Post Acute Care Forum. The team is in the early stages of discussions to establish educational and networking opportunities that are relevant to the LTC-Post Acute Care sector. If you have experience or interest in this area we welcome your participation. Please contact me.

Our Social Networking Team continues to enhance and integrate MaHIMA’s online presence on Facebook, Twitter, and LinkedIn. We encourage you to follow us online:

- www.facebook.com/massachusetts.health.info.mngmnt.assoc
- www.linkedin.com/company/massachusetts-health-information-management-association-mahima
- www.twitter.com/MaHIMAResources

We are working on website updates. If you have comments or suggestions for website improvements, please contact me.

The Committee continues to develop member e-Surveys, Job Alerts and e-Alerts to understand the needs of members and to keep our members informed of industry and Association news and events.

Our Marketing and Public Relations task force continues to identify opportunities and develop methods to promote the work of MaHIMA and its members.

Volunteering with MaHIMA is a rewarding experience. If you have an interest in working with the Committee on any of these initiatives, please contact me.

### Education

#### Committee Updates & Announcements

By: Diana Lindo, RHIT, CCS

Another year has come and gone and as we as we start 2012, the MaHIMA Education Committee will continue working on delivering quality educational sessions to our members. We hope we met your expectations in 2011 and hope to meet and exceed your expectations in 2012.

2011 Year Review:

- We had our first MaHIMA webinar and based on the feedback you found the information useful and informative, there were over 200 attendees. Many thanks to Luisa Diles, RHIA, CCS, for a great presentation making the intricacies of ICD-10-PCS understandable.

With Meaningful Use, ACOs, and ICD-10, we have a lot on our plates and MaHIMA will do its best to provide you with affordable and relevant education. Please send us your education needs and if you have a hot topic send it our way. You can send emails to diana.lindo@childrens.harvard.edu, Sue Marre at smarre@nesinai, or Shari Manning at hayman1204@yahoo.com

Upcoming Meetings in the next three to four months include:

- Winter meeting January 27, 2012
- ICD-10 Summit – scheduled for Spring 2012
- Several Coding Roundtables are in the planning stages

Students from Bristol Community College, Fisher College and Laboure College have been invited to attend a networking session at the Winter meeting, so please join us as we support the future of our profession and association.

Healthcare is similar to New England weather, forever changing.

### Finance
Report for July 2011 - September, 2011

By: Linda A. Hyde, RHIA, Finance Committee Chair

At the Fall Meeting, the FY 2012 budgeted was presented to the membership. The projected budget for the year is $115,245. First quarter income was $25,543 with expenses of $18,666. The majority of income for the first quarter comes from Fall Meeting. Complete Fall meeting income and expenses will be available in the second quarter report. An additional income of $5,760 represents the Massachusetts proceeds from the NE HIM annual meeting. $390 of this income is from the silent auction which is used for our certification scholarship program. Expenses represent administrative costs and the AHIMA summer team talks/leadership meeting.

As of the end of September MaHIMA has $116,005 in assets with 72% ($84,256) in the Merrill Lynch and Fidelity accounts for reserves. This represents approximately 9 months of expenses which is consistent with last year’s experience.

TOP

Legislative Affairs

Legislative Updates & Announcements

By: Ellen MacMullen, RHIA, Director, Legislation/Advocacy

Here is a snapshot of recent and upcoming activities.

The annual AHIMA meeting was held back in October. The House of Delegates had a few items to vote on, the results are as follows:

- Revision to AHIMA Bylaws - Approved
- MPI - TABLED for clarification.
- Resolution on Diversity & Inclusion - Approved
- Resolution on HIM Management of Quality of Health Data - Approved
- Revision of Code of Ethics - Approved

A successful Dott Wag Memorial Seminar was held this past November. The seminar was well attended with 91 registered attendees. Topics included HIM’s role in Meeting Meaningful Use, Improving your Legal Knowledge, Submitting your Information Electronically to Mass Rehab Commission and a General Update for Release of Information. The participant survey is a very important part of the daily program. It provides the Legislative Affairs Committee with an opportunity to improve upon future offerings. It also provides a list of topics that YOU the members want to hear in the future. Thank you all for attending this annual event. We look forward to planning next year’s event.

The Committee is in the beginning stages of planning our Annual Visit to Beacon Hill. This year we are collaborating with New England HIMSS. We expect to increase the attendance and enriching the topics by joining efforts with them. The date of this event will be May 22, 2012. Stay connected for more information.

TOP
Call for Nominations for the 2012 MaHIMA Election

By: Julie Irons, RHIA, Chairperson, Nominating Committee

Being involved with MaHIMA is a rewarding and exciting experience and just around the corner is an opportunity to run for next year's election for President-Elect and Director of Communications!
If you or someone you know might consider running for one of these positions, please email Julie Irons, Nominating Committee Chairperson at jiron@quadramed.com.
To review the Officer Responsibilities, click on the link below:

President-Elect
Director of Communications

The official Call for Nominations takes place in January for the spring election, so right now is a great time to think about this opportunity to serve as President-Elect or Director of Communications.

LEGAL CONNECTIONS:

What's Ahead in 2012

By: Colin J. Zick, JD
Foley Hoag LLP

It seems like 2011 just started and yet it's time to wrap up the year and look ahead to 2012. What can you expect? The single best place to look for clues is the "Work Plan" of the federal Department of Health and Human Services, Office of Inspector General. In that Work Plan, all the issues of enforcement that HHS is concerned about for 2012 are listed out for everyone to see. For HIM, the primary subjects in the Work Plan are those overseen by the HHS Office of Civil Rights (OCR), which have been charged with the enforcement HIPAA:

  * OCR Oversight of the HIPAA Privacy Rule
  * OCR Oversight of the HIPAA Privacy Rule

"We will review Office for Civil Rights (OCR) oversight of the Health Insurance Portability and Accountability Act of 1996 (HIPAA) Privacy Rule. The Privacy Rule establishes Federal minimum standards for safeguarding individually identifiable health information referred to as PHI. The Recovery Act requires that OCR investigate all privacy complaints filed against covered entities if a preliminary investigation indicates willful neglect of the Privacy Rule."

What does this mean? In short, if someone makes a privacy complaint against your institution, you may get a call from HHS OCR. And there will be more privacy complaints made to HHS OCR in 2012 than in prior years, as patient awareness of their rights grows.
In addition, we know that HHS OCR will be conducting HIPAA audits in 2012. We don't know the precise form or possible penalties related to these audits, but if you look a little further down in the Work Plan, you can see that OCR is focused on the imposition of penalties for HIPAA privacy violations:

"The Recovery Act also strengthened OCR's enforcement of the HIPAA Privacy Rule by increasing the civil monetary penalties for covered entities' noncompliance. (74 Fed. Reg. 56123.) We will review OCR's efforts at investigation policies and assess OCR's oversight to ensure that covered entities are complying with the Privacy Rule."

A Work Plan item such as this usually leads OCR to ratchet up its own efforts at enforcement, in order to make a good impression.

TECHNOLOGY CONNECTIONS:

IOM Reports on HIT and Patient Safety

By: Pat Rioux, RHIT
Product Management, eClinicalWorks

The Institute of Medicine (IOM), best known for their landmark 1999 report on medical errors (To Err is Human) recently reported on the use of health information technology (HIT) and its impact on patient safety. In this report, Health IT and Patient Safety: Building Safer Systems for Better Care, they make ten recommendations that include the creation of a council to evaluate criteria for assessing the safety of IT systems and reporting requirements for electronic health record vendors.

http://mahima.org/newsletter/2012_jan_connect.html
The HHS Office of the National Coordinator for Health Information Technology (ONC) commissioned the study and called for the HIT industry to improve the safety of its software products or have the software products regulated by a federal agency. The IOM is an independent, nonprofit, non-governmental organization that provides unbiased advice to the public, government and decision makers. The IOM report recommends that the Secretary of Health and Human Services (HHS) ensures that the HIT vendors support a free exchange of information and establish a mechanism for users and vendors to report on HIT related deaths, injuries or other safety issues. HIT is recognized for its importance to a continuous improvement of health care quality and safety through rapid and reliable flagging of potential safety risks and prevention of adverse events.

ONC has reported that they have undertaken a planning initiative to “develop a comprehensive EHR safety action and surveillance plan well within the 12-month period recommended by IOM” according to National Coordinator Farzad Mostashari, M.D. ONC will work with the “FDA, AHRQ, NIH, and CMS as well as the broader health care community and industry.”

Several Affordable Care Act initiatives including the Partnership for Patients and the accountable care organizations include safety programs that address medical errors, hospital acquired conditions, and readmissions.


**ATTENTION NEWLY CREDENTIALED & CODERS:**

**Certification Scholarships Available**

By: Jackie Raymond, RHIA

Did you know that MaHIMA offers a Certification Scholarship to help defray the cost of certification examinations? Any member of Massachusetts HIM who has taken and passed one of the AHIMA sponsored certification exams is eligible to apply. The $100 MaHIMA Certification Scholarships are awarded on a first-come-first-awarded basis.

Details on the scholarship are available here. The Scholarship submission form is available here. Consider the MaHIMA Scholarship Fund in Your Year-End Giving

As the end of the year approaches, please consider supporting the MaHIMA Scholarship Fund. In addition to helping fund our certification scholarships, you may realize tax benefits. Donations can be made securely at our website: Donate

**MaHIMA Announces New Member Benefit: Discount on Anatomy and Physiology Refresher Course**

The Board of Directors of MaHIMA is pleased to announce that it has negotiated a discount on anatomy and physiology training for its members and their colleagues.

The training, provided as an on-line course, was developed by Barry Libman Inc., a leading provider of coding, audit and education services to health information management departments. The course, entitled Anatomy & Physiology for Coders, provides a comprehensive and complete review of the major body systems. The 12-week curriculum focuses on what coders need to know in order to learn and use ICD-10-CM and PCS.

AHIMA recommends an anatomy and physiology refresher for coders in preparation for the transition to ICD-10. Coders who successful complete Anatomy & Physiology for Coders can receive up to 24 AHIMA CEUs as well as 12 AAPC CEUs. Anatomy & Physiology for Coders retails for $220, however MaHIMA members and their colleagues are eligible for a special discounted rate of $209, a 5% discount off this already affordable anatomy and physiology training option. The required textbook for the course is available for $85.

Information on the course is available at http://www.barrylibmaninc.com/training-education/icd-10-anatomy-and-physiology-course/.

To receive special pricing, be sure to use discount/voucher code: MAHIMA Affiliate

If you have questions, feel free to contact Barry Libman Inc. at 978-369-7180 or info@barrylibmaninc.com

**FEATURE ARTICLES:**

**ICD-10 Update**

By: Linda Hyde, RHIA

So what's happening in the ICD-10 world in Massachusetts? The MaHIMA ICD-10 Forum held its second meeting November 29th at New England Sinai Hospital. Minutes from that meeting are posted on the Massachusetts CoP but the primary topics of discussion centered on what MaHIMA can do to support members for education and training. Several ideas came out of the discussion that will be taken to the board and respective committees for implementation. The next meeting will be in February. Anyone who is interested in participating in this forum can contact Sue Marre at smarre@nesinai.org.

As mentioned in the last ICD-10 update, the Massachusetts Health Data Consortium (MHDC) has also convened an ICD-10 forum. One of
the activities coordinated by this forum was an ICD-10 Provider Readiness Survey conducted by the Massachusetts health plans and MassHealth. HealthCare Administrative Solutions (HCAS) administered the survey and summarized the results. Survey results came from physician offices, other health care providers and hospitals and showed that 37% of respondents have started ICD-10 planning and 28% of providers have dedicated resources for ICD-10 compliance and implementation efforts. The entire survey results can be found at [www.hcasma.org](http://www.hcasma.org). Plans are to use this information to determine what resources and materials will be useful to facilitated ICD-10 preparations. Anyone who works for an MHDC member organization interested in participating in the ICD-10 forum or the Coding and Operations Workgroup can contact Stacy McKenna, Office Manager, at smckenna@mahealthdata.org to be added to the participant list.

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The REC Report

**By:** Heather Hedlund, RHIA
Clinical Relationship Manager, Regional Extension Center
Massachusetts eHealth Institute

**Medicare and Medicaid EHR Incentive Program Update**

Both the Medicare and Medicaid programs are fully underway, with eligible providers and hospitals successfully attesting to Stage 1 Meaningful Use and receiving their first incentive payments. As of October 31, 138,570 national providers and hospitals had registered for the incentive program. This resulted in $1,239,106,258 in EHR incentive payments.

**First Massachusetts Meaningful Use Attesters**

140 Eligible Professionals who are enrolled with the Regional Extension Center have successfully attested to Stage 1 Meaningful Use. To celebrate this achievement, an event was held at the State House on November 2. Congratulations to these and all of Massachusetts’ early Meaningful Use attesters!

Heather Hedlund can be reached at 617-371-3999 x234 or Hedlund@masstech.org.

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Eligibility Requirements for Coding Credential Exams to Change January 1

**By:** Mary Beth York, CCS, CCS-P
Senior Associate
Barry Libman, Inc.

The Commission on Certification for Health Informatics and Information Management (CCHIIM) is modifying the eligibility requirements for the CCA, CCS, and CCS-P exams effective January 1, 2013. The new requirements are listed below.

**Certified Coding Associate (CCA)**

- Required: High School Diploma or equivalent

- Training and Recommendations:
  - Six months coding experience directly applying codes, or
  - Completion of an AHIMA approved coding program, or
  - Completion of other coding training program to include anatomy and physiology, medical terminology, basic ICD diagnostic/procedural, and basic CPT coding

**Certified Coding Specialist (CCS) and Certified Coding Specialist – Physician-based CCS-P**

Candidates must meet one of the following eligibility requirements:

- By credential: RHIA, RHIT, or CCS/CCS-P, or
- By education: Completion of a coding training program that includes anatomy & physiology, pharmacology, medical terminology, reimbursement methodology, intermediate/advanced ICD diagnostic/procedural and CPT coding, or
- By experience: Minimum of two years of related coding experience directly applying codes, or
- By credential with experience: CCA plus one year of coding experience directly applying codes, or
- Other: Coding credential from another certifying organization plus one year coding experience directly applying codes

Mark your calendar! 2012 CCS Exam Preparation class is being offered at the New England HIMA Annual Conference on May 8, 2013 at Mohegan Sun in Uncasville, Connecticut.
Mary Beth York CCS, CCS-P is past-President and President-elect of the New Hampshire HIMA. Mary Beth has participated for several years as an instructor in the CCS examination preparation class at the New England HIMA Annual Conference as well as teaching intensive CCS and CCA exam preparation courses. Mary Beth can be reached at mbyork@barrylibmaninc.com.

AHIMA Annual Convention Highlights: Salt Lake City, Utah
By: Chris Rushbrook, RHIT, MaHIMA Website Editor

As a first-time attendee and relative newcomer to the Health Information profession, the 2011 AHIMA Annual Convention in Salt Lake City was an amazing experience. My first thought when I walked into the cavernous room hosting the general sessions filled with people from around the country and the world, was how impressed I am with the strength and knowledge of the representatives of our profession. Seeing and hearing speakers with whom I am “virtually” familiar with through publications and webinars, including Nelly Leon-Chisen, RHIA and Sue Bowman, RHIA, CCS, was a wonderful motivator. There is a very impressive amount of diverse knowledge from truly dedicated and talented professionals in our field and I am pleased to have had the opportunity to hear their ideas in person.

The general session also presented terrific and thought provoking speakers outside of our profession with important messages for all of us. One in particular was Stephen M.R. Covey, a nationally renowned advisor in the business world on topics such as leadership, ethics and trust in the work-place. His presentation encouraged thought about how one works within and outside his or her organization in order to foster trust. This idea requires personal reflection and most importantly action because even with intent we can fall well short of our goal without a plan for change. Another important message is that there is always room for improvement and that trust grows from integrity and consistency on an individual level which then may transfer to groups and the organization as a whole.

Like other conferences, there are an overwhelming number of education tracks and pre-conference workshops to expand one’s knowledge of current issues in HIM. I attended those primarily related to my interests: the transition to ICD-10 and Clinical Documentation Improvement (CDI). The emphasis was on how to implement successful programs, incorporate ICD-10 guidelines into existing programs and who should lead the effort. My impression from the discussions is that a collaborative effort is the key to success, especially in presenting the true Severity of Illness (SOI) and Risk of Mortality (ROM) of patients.

COLLEGE CONNECTIONS:
BRISTOL COMMUNITY COLLEGE

Joy P. Rose, MSA, RHIA, CCS
Assistant Professor/ HITECH Grant Program Coordinator
Bristol Community College
777 Eslbee Street, Fall River, MA 02720
Voice: 508-678-2811, ext. 2329 Fax: 508-730-3262
Joy.rose@bristolcc.edu

Bristol Community College would like to take this opportunity to thank all the healthcare organizations who are participating in Professional Practice Experiences for RCC HIT and medical coding certificate students. RCC continues to have very strong interest and enrollment in
What is the HITECH Grant Program? The HITECH Grant program at BCC is an ARRA funded grant that provides FREE training on how to implement and install an electronic health record. The BCC HITECH Grant program is also enrolling qualified persons at a very robust rate. BCC has currently enrolled and trained 150 individuals for the roles of Practitioner Consultant and Workflow Redesign Specialist. These individuals have a backgrounds ranging from IT to clinician and associates degrees through PhDs. The program is a very rigorous program that provides education to qualified people who will assist physician practices in making the transition from paper to electronic. BCC is hoping to enroll more qualified personnel by mid November. If you are interested in participating in this no-cost opportunity, email HITECH@bristolcc.edu or contact Bonnie Warner at 508 678 2811, ext 3665.

Newly Credentialed Students:
Elizabeth Dozois, RHIT
Elizabeth Torres, RHIT
Jessica Simas, RHIT

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**FISHER COLLEGE**

Valerie McCleary, MS, RHIA
Director of HIM Programs
Fisher College
Voice: 727-433-2816
vmccleary@fisher.edu
www.fisher.edu

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**LABOURE COLLEGE**

By Maureen Smith

Programs offered:

- Coding Certificate Program
- Health Information Professional Certificate Program (open to students interested in the health information field who hold an associate degree or higher)
- Health Information Associate Degree Program

Application and program information can be found at the College’s website: www.laboure.edu

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MaHIMA Connect Editorial Team:

http://mahima.org/newsletter/2012_jan_connect.html