

IHIMA SPOTLIGHT SERIES

DELEGATE

Welcome to the next installment of our IHIMA Spotlight Series! In this edition, we're thrilled to shed light on the critical and influential role of Delegates within our organization. These dedicated individuals play a significant part in the governance of our profession and contribute to the advancement of HIM

ROLE OVERVIEW



The AHIMA House of Delegates (HoD) exists to govern the profession of health information management, offering a forum for membership and professional issues and establishing and maintaining professional standards. The President and President-Elect are also considered delegates. Delegates serve as voting members of the IHIMA Executive Board and provide guidance to the AHIMA Board of Directors on matters of importance to the membership and the broader health information management community.

Key Points:

- A delegate an appointed/elected position with a two-year term.
- Delegates' terms are staggered to ensure continuity in the House of Delegates and the state delegation. No IHIMA delegate may serve more than two consecutive terms.
- IHIMA has a total of five Delegates: the first two are the incumbent President and President-Elect, while additional delegates will be nominated as per IHIMA bylaws.
- Delegates must be active members in good standing of AHIMA and IHIMA, and they must possess AHIMA credentials.

COMMITTEES AND RESPONSIBILITIES



Delegates serve on the IHIMA Board and the IHIMA Finance Committee. Additionally, the IHIMA President appoints one Delegate to serve on each of the following committees:

- **Envisioning Collaborative:** This "think tank" includes delegates, subject matter experts, and industry leaders who contribute perspectives, innovation, and ideas that inform strategy and enable solutions to advance the profession.
- **House Leadership:** Ensure effective HoD operations, aligning with strategy, fostering the overall delegate experience, and providing oversight of task force progression.

Additional Responsibilities:

- Communicating and providing feedback on issues to CSA BOD and membership.
- Vetting professional practice content.
- Conducting environmental scanning.
- Facilitating the voice of the member.
- Voting on important matters pertaining to the HoD.
- Seeking feedback and informing the membership on AHIMA and HoD activities.
- Providing input on gaps in AHIMA programs and services and areas of HIM research and innovation.

Delegates are actively involved in various meetings and committees to fulfill their responsibilities:

- **Board Meetings**
- **Additional Meetings:** Delegates also participate in meetings like the House of Delegates Meeting, AHIMA Leadership Symposium, and AHIMA Advocacy Summit.

YOUR VOICE MATTERS!



Being a Delegate is an extraordinary opportunity to have a direct impact on our profession, IHIMA, and the broader healthcare community. If you're passionate about advancing health information management and have the required qualifications, we encourage you to consider this esteemed role.



MEET OUR BOARD



PRESIDENT/DELEGATE

BONNIE ASPIAZU, JD, RHIA

REGIONAL HIM MANAGER OUTSIDE
INDIANAPOLIS REGION AT R1 RCM
&
HIM ADJUNCT LECTURER AT INDIANA
UNIVERSITY



PRESIDENT ELECT/DELEGATE

JAMEY MCGOWEN, MBA, RHIA,
CDIP, CCS

CDI/CODING DIRECTOR AT ECU HEALTH
&
HIM ADJUNCT LECTURER AT INDIANA
UNIVERSITY



2ND YEAR DELEGATE

NICOLE HARPER, PHD, RHIA, CCS-
P, CRCR

VICE PRESIDENT OF REVENUE
CYCLE SERVICES AND CHIEF
OPERATING OFFICER AT ESKENAZI
HEALTH



2ND YEAR DELEGATE

CINDY SPANN, MIS, RHIA, CHPS,
CCS, CCS-P, FAHIMA

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR OF HIM AT
COMMUNITY HEALTH NETWORK
&
FELLOW OF THE AMERICAN
HEALTH INFORMATION
MANAGEMENT ASSOCIATION



1ST YEAR DELEGATE

AMY COFFMAN, RHIA

RELEASE OF INFORMATION
MANAGER AT COMMUNITY HEALTH
NETWORK

Q&A WITH THE DELEGATES

Q: What motivated you to join IHIMA's Board of Directors?

- Nicole: I missed being connected and wanted to get back involved – I took the opportunity to rejoin the board when the Delegate position opened back up!!
- Cindy: I first volunteered with IHIMA over 14 years ago because I wanted to develop relationships with HIM peers, learn more about AHIMA/IHIMA, and grow professionally. I stay involved to keep up to date and give back to the profession.
- Amy: I wanted to get involved to help move the profession along locally and nationally.

Q: How do your delegate responsibilities impact IHIMA as an organization and the broader healthcare community?

- Nicole: Being aware and informed is paramount to success for any organization – I take my advocacy responsibility seriously and look at it as a way to help support the ongoing knowledge and expertise of both lay and expert communities.
- Cindy: The delegate role supports the IHIMA strategic plan. Delegates are members of the IHIMA Finance Committee. Delegates advocate for HIM in Washington DC and Indiana.
- Amy: I think anything we can do to further our role as HI professionals in healthcare will help our patients. We have the unique perspective of the record from beginning to end and what we see and the expertise we bring is invaluable to healthcare.

Q: What specific initiatives or projects have you been involved in as a board member, and how have they contributed to IHIMA's goals?

- Nicole: Hill Day was an amazing opportunity to combine expectations and intent – it brought to life why we exist and the importance of our role as a connector between our community, the law makers and those we serve.
- Cindy: The one that stands out the most is advocacy. I have talked with legislators to support the AHIMA and IHIMA strategic plan and advocate for specific legislation that impacts the HIM profession.
- Amy: State Advocacy Day and Hill Day in Washington have allowed us the opportunity to bring our knowledge and concerns to our legislators.

Q: Board service often comes with challenges. Could you describe a challenge you've faced and how you and the board addressed it?

- Nicole: Agreed – differing opinions can be very challenging to navigate, but our Board works diligently to communicate and work through exploring various solutions to all problems we face!
- Cindy: Finances seem to be a constant challenge. The board continually reviews the budget and works as a team to meet budget expectations as well as support the membership.
- Amy: I think Annual Meeting often comes with challenges, especially the last few years with COVID. I think we were able to pivot and adapt to the needed changes. Going from in-person only to virtual quickly was a challenge but feel like the board and annual meeting committee worked well together to pull it off.

Q: What unique perspectives or expertise do you bring to the board that you believe has made a difference in your role?

- Nicole: My role as a financial executive, I believe, helps to bring perspective we may not always have access to as we're making decisions on how to progress our platform – I feel like it gives us insight into what non-HIM professionals are looking to support, ultimately helping us to learn the best path forward.
- Cindy: I see the larger picture and work to bring that perspective to the board.
- Amy: I don't know that I have a unique perspective, but I feel like at the end of the day our profession is about helping patients.

Q: How has being a board member enriched your professional growth and leadership skills?

- Nicole: The networking and professional growth opportunities have been amazing!!
- Cindy: I've held several board roles including President-Elect, President, Past-President, Secretary, Delegate, and several committee chair roles. All these roles have helped me grow professionally and as a leader specifically with communication, organization skills, as well as time management.
- Amy: I think the opportunity to be around other HI professionals with different styles and experiences is always a positive. It has given me professional relationships I would not have had because we all work at different places, and I wouldn't have had the opportunity to get to know them. I love the opportunity to "talk shop" with others and get that confirmation that maybe I do understand something, or we are all doing things the same in our organizations. That to me has helped tremendously.

Q: What advice would you give to someone considering joining IHIMA's Board of Directors?

- Nicole: Ask lots of questions, share your perspective and volunteer for a committee so that you can get exposed to the inner workings of success!!
- Cindy: My advice is to talk with IHIMA Board members to learn more, ask questions, and get involved. It doesn't have to be an elected role. Volunteer to help locally/regionally or at an IHIMA meeting.
- Amy: Jump in, try something new, and learn. Good or bad you come out ahead for having done it.