

## **WHIMA RECOGNIZES VOLUNTEERS AND OUTSTANDING LEADERS AT VOLUNTEER LUNCHEON IN ELKHART LAKE**

Jennifer Laughlin, WHIMA recent President, recognized WHIMA team leaders and team members for their outstanding contributions to the health information profession. She sent out a sincere “Thank You” to all the many volunteers for their hours and hours of service. It really DOES make a difference! Volunteers are responsible for the success of WHIMA!! If you haven’t considered volunteering time to do so is now!!! Volunteering takes you places. Working for your association in this capacity will increase your value as an HIM professional. We all know we learn best by doing. Give part of yourself! You’ll get much more in return.

So, without further ado, our outstanding leaders are....



### **Rising Star Award Winner...Melinda Mielke!**

The Rising Star award is presented to a professional who has been credentialed within the last seven years who demonstrates a significant potential for future leadership, innovation, creativity and administrative capacity. Malinda has been involved in WHIMA from the moment she started down the path towards becoming an RHIT. As a student, she participated on teams and has been eager to be involved whenever possible. At the present time, Malinda is leading the WHIMA Fall Conference Team for 2008. Malinda stepped into the role of interim health information supervisor during her manager’s surgical leave. Since that time, she has completed her studies at NWTC and has earned her RHIT credential. Malinda has continued to learn and develop over the past several years. Malinda possesses the professional interest and poise that is worthy of recognition and for that reason she has been selected to receive the 2008 Rising Star Award. Remember her! She is going places. Congratulations Melinda!

### **Educator Award Winner....Amy Janssen!**

The Educator Award is presented to honor those who demonstrate excellence in preparing the next generation of professionals for their HIM careers. It is an award for those who teach in a health information administration, technology and other related programs and who are involved in WHIMA’s activities at the state and local levels. Amy was nominated by a few of her students. Some of the reasons given for Amy being an exceptional educator included:

- good at explaining things at a level a student can understand



- she explains how she got to the answer so you understand the logic
- responds to e-mails in a timely manner
- available outside of class to help
- researches things she doesn't have the answer for, and then gets back to students with the info and/or pertinent websites
- always friendly and smiling
- give encouragement
- goes the extra mile
- gives real life examples
- not afraid to laugh at herself
- has priorities of life in place - family is first
- very intelligent from working in the trenches in this ever-changing field
- wrote classes, and handed them over to adjunct faculty; she was so organized and prepared that they could step right in and teach

Amy has made a difference in many lives of her students! She continually goes above and beyond for them and for WHIMA. Thank you Amy!

#### **Motivator Award Winner....Peg Schmidt!**



This award honors outstanding members who are dedicated to continued learning for others and themselves. For a long record of encouraging students and colleagues to become all they can be, and helping them find ways to achieve their best. Peg has been an active member of WHIMA, serving as President, Director, and as a member/team leader on any number of committees. In her role as a Community Education Coordinator for the myPHR Campaign for AHIMA, she is promoting the personal health record to members of WHIMA as well as the general public. She has helped train

“My PHR” presenters throughout the state and has given presentations to the public in order to advance this national initiative. She has motivated and encouraged others to volunteer and get involved in WHIMA activities.

Peg has not only accepted students for clinical affiliations in her organization, she has hired them as well. Within the past year Peg has accepted a new position as Privacy Officer within her organization. She leads by example in that she has presented at WHIMA Conferences on the topic of privacy as well as other HIM-related issues. Her enthusiasm and pride in the HIM profession are delivered in her presentations. Her ability to capture her audience's attention, involve them in her presentations and her naturalness in presenting demonstrate her exceptional presentation skills.

Peg has more than demonstrated her motivational abilities. With her experience, understanding of the healthcare industry and contributions to our profession, we

feel she is most deserving of being recognized as a Motivator by WHIMA. Congratulations Peg!



### **Distinguished Member Award Winner....Cathy Hansen!**

The Distinguished Member award is provided to honor outstanding members for their loyal service to the association and their contribution to the profession. These members have been active within the organization at all levels and have contributed through publication, teaching/educational presentations and administrative activities, showing leadership innovation and creativity. Cathy has been a member of WHIMA for a long time and has served in many capacities. Cathy is a past President of WHIMA, has served on many committees and workgroups, and most recently was appointed to the e-Health Quality and Patient Safety Board. Additionally, Cathy chairs the Consumer Interest Workgroup which is a subset of this board. This workgroup focuses on recognizing the privacy and security issues for consumers. Cathy not only met the obligation of representing WHIMA, she exceeded all expectations and has emerged as the “expert” or go-to person on a State level for patient privacy and security issues. Through Cathy’s hard work and the work of other key WHIMA professionals she has involved, the e-Health project participants are now critically aware of the challenges that will be faced as further steps to implement the e-Health plan are undertaken. Cathy has ensured that health leaders in WI thoroughly understand the implications of current WI legislation that may challenge e-Health implementation. We truly believe that Cathy is a Distinguished Member and her commitment to the profession, her leadership skills and her genuine concern for doing the right thing, supports this belief. Please give your congratulations to the winner of WHIMA’s highest honor! Way to go Cathy!

We did not have an award winner for the category of Distinguished Service Award this year. The Distinguished Service Award is to recognize WHIMA members and non-members who have made significant, commendable and long-standing contributions through service to WHIMA. Criteria for the award include completion of a major project for the Association in an outstanding manner; Display innovation and creativity through service projects; Service to the Association in a particular role in a manner of excellence over multiple years; Contribution as a volunteer in the advancement of WHIMA goals and objectives; Support to the Association through special efforts or leadership in accomplishment of a goal. We know there are deserving individuals out there.

Again, our thanks to all the many volunteers for your service to WHIMA!!

Be sure and nominate someone today for next year, so they can be recognized.