

Meet Your Board



Mary Brandt, MBA, RHIA, CHE, CHPS

Employer: Brandt & Associates, Inc.

How long: 3 years

Job title: President

What other positions have you held within the HIM field?

- Consulting positions with PricewaterhouseCoopers, QuadraMed, and Pyramid Health Solutions
- Director, Policy & Research, AHIMA
- Vice President, St. Luke's Episcopal Hospital, Houston, TX
- Director, Medical Record Department, St. Luke's Episcopal Hospital and Texas Children's Hospital, Houston, TX
- Director, Medical Record Department, Lakeland Regional Medical Center, Lakeland, FL

How did you become interested in a career in HIM?

I attended a community college in Iowa when I finished high school.

Part of the program involved working in a local business 15 hours a week, and, as luck would have it, I was assigned to the local hospital. I'd always been terrified of hospitals, but I decided to make the best of it. It was a 30-bed rural hospital, and I worked in the "front office," which included Admitting, Medical Records, Patient Accounting, and the switchboard. I loved it—especially the medical record functions—and decided an HIM career was the way to go. A couple of years later, I moved to Louisiana and began my baccalaureate program in HIM at the University of Southwestern Louisiana (now the University of Louisiana).

Describe someone you feel was an important influence in your HIM career.

I've been fortunate to have worked with so many great people in this profession over the past 25 years. **Margret Amatayakul, Kathleen Frawley, Pam Wear, Linda Culp, Gretchen Murphy, Jill Callahan Dennis, and Dott Wagg** have all served as mentors and role models. I was especially saddened at Linda Culp's passing—she never called attention to herself but went quietly about her careers in HIM and hospital administration, always encouraging others and working tirelessly to do what was right for her

patients and her staff.

What led to your interest in serving on the Board of Directors for TxHIMA?

I've served on several AHIMA councils, committees, and task forces over the years, but I haven't been very active at the state level. So, when **Beverly Rhodes** called and asked me to consider running, I couldn't say "no." I'm really impressed with the caliber of the professionals serving on the TxHIMA Board, and I'm looking forward to working with all of them and getting to know them better.

What is a major goal that you would like to achieve during your current term as a TxHIMA Board member?

I'm deeply committed to continuing to advance our profession, and I believe the best way to do that is ongoing development of HIM professionals. Healthcare is changing so quickly, and we have to change with it by continually developing new skills and accepting new challenges.

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