hfma south texas chapter
healthcare financial management association

07/25/2016

Certification Committee

Board Report

Colleagues,

The Certification Committee has been nominally active over the past six months due to personal career changes for folks on the committee. Joe Topinka had performed famously as the committee chair before recommending me to be chair for this past year as he took on a professorship at Texas State in San Marcos. As you may or may not know I was suddenly unemployed in July of last year and searched for full time employment for nine months before landing at CMMS Mobile X-ray in San Marcos. The transition in to this new position has been demanding and I have been continuing with consulting that had begun to build over the last several months. I am just now getting my feet under me from a career perspective and able to be of greater value to the chapter.

During this past year we provided three CHFP study modules to members of our chapter, Joe Sereno, Mike Amlani, and Robbie Connell. All three are working on their studies preparing for the exam, with Joe Sereno planning to sit for the exam this December. I am aware of one member from the Edinburg area who has successfully completed the CHFP exam just two weeks ago, Robert Gomez. I plan on submitting my application for Fellowship status this year and should be able to gain that in the next few months.

For this next season, I plan on being able to attend some chapter events in person and to be available to discuss certification with those in attendance as my new position and situation will now allow. I received contact/inquiry information provided by Robert Gomez, mentioned above, who is serious about becoming involved in the Chapter both with the Certification Committee as well as the Programs Committee. Mr. Gomez is a MBA and Accounting professor as well as a Financial Manager at the UTRGV School of Medicine. (Please see attached information provided by Mr. Gomez). I recommend that we add Robert to the Certification Committee as Assistant Chair and train him this year with the goal of promoting him to Chair of the Certification Committee next year should that be his desire and yours as a Board.

The only request I have at this time is that the Board consider the purchase of an additional (3) – (5) licenses for Module I of the CHFP Studies, HFMA's Business of Health Care program. The estimated cost for this request is $400/student retail for members and I believe we get the study license at $350/student as a chapter. That would bring the request to $1,050 for (3) exams or $1,750 for (5) exams.

Thank you for your personal and professional support this past year as my transition was especially difficult for me. I appreciate you all and the work you put in to making this Chapter a valuable resource and support system for our members and the Best Chapter in all of HFMA!

Geoff Bretches, Chair, Certification Committee.

Attachment

Robert Gomez Communication to me on July 20, 2016

Geoffrey,

Thank you for your kind message. It was a pleasure to speak with you this week as well. While I recently completed the CHFP certification program, I have been a HFMA member for several years and have worked in revenue cycle management within a faculty practice plan in the UTHSC/San Antonio School of Medicine dating back to 2006. Currently, I serve as Financial Manager & Administrator in the new UT Rio Grande Valley School of Medicine in Edinburg, Texas, which is due to welcome its charter class of students next week.

Service on the HFMA certification committee is particularly appealing to me given my avocation for teaching, mentoring, and contributing to the professional development of adult learners. Having worked in academic medicine for over a decade, I believe a knowledge-gap exists between medical providers (physicians, mid-levels…), front- & back-office personnel, and practice management leaders related to business and financial management. It is in this context that I believe HFMA's multiple certification programs and webinar presentations are excellent resources available to bridge these gaps.

Brief background: I hold a B.A. in Biology and M.B.A. with concentrations in Finance & Accounting from St. Mary's University. I have taught college-level accounting since 1996 (mostly in San Antonio) and am currently writing curriculum materials for use in a Healthcare Accounting course at UTRGV. I consider myself early in my healthcare finance career as I plan to seek-out professional development opportunities in a hospital or medical group setting in the Rio Grande Valley region. *I would appreciate any local contacts or assistance the South Texas Chapter could provide in this regard.*

I plan to attend the upcoming ACHE/HFMA Summer Institute on August 25, 2016, and look forward to meeting fellow HFMA South Texas Chapter members at that time. I am sure we will be in touch in the near future. Also, I maintain active LinkedIn and Twitter accounts in the event you wish to converse via those avenues.

In closing and by CC:, I extend my well wishes from deep South Texas to HFMA officers copied on this message. Congratulations on your collective success in pioneering the future of healthcare financial management education and thank you for your service.

With regards,
Robert L. Gomez, MBA, CHFP
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