



Student Spotlight – November 2015

Nicole Rudolph, MT Tech

In the fall of 2012, I enrolled at Montana Tech as the first step to pursuing a career in professional healthcare. During a seminar class, a presentation by Charie Faught, head of the HCI department, persuaded me to find out more about the healthcare informatics and healthcare IT field. I scheduled a meeting with Charie and decided this major and career path was where I needed to be. I switched majors during this meeting.

Flash forward to 2014. While in class, Charie suggested that students apply to HIMSS. Wanting to learn more about the organization and what membership involved, I researched for a few hours and signed up. Montana Tech is an academic organizational affiliate, so membership is free for students. I thought HIMSS would be a great organization to be a part of as well as be a great resource and investment into my future career goals. In the fall of 2014, shortly after I became a HIMSS member, I decided to apply to be a Program Assistant at HIMSS15 and was accepted as a student volunteer.

While at HIMSS15, I got the opportunity to work alongside HIMSS staff at the 40,000 plus attendee conference. I was part of the Logistics team and was responsible for greeting attendees and distributing HIMSS tote bags and various conference resources. I also had the opportunity to work the booth at the CIO Forum and briefly chat with CIOs from all over the nation. I attended educational sessions which including speakers from the NFL, The TIGER Initiative, and AHIMA. I also visited Exhibition Hall, stopping by various vendor booths and grasping a handle on the many avenues that healthcare IT presents. The highlight of my conference experience was the keynote session by former president George W. Bush. The weeklong Chicago conference gave me new perspective on the industry and reinforced the fact that I am on the correct career path.

This fall, I presented my experience at HIMSS15 to two different classes in the HCI program at Tech. I also encouraged my fellow classmates to join HIMSS and apply to be Program Assistants at HIMSS16. I believe the conference is an eye-opening experience and will be very beneficial to not only me, but my classmates as well. Though our department is small, Tech and HCI will be proudly represented at the upcoming conference. I look forward to attending HIMSS16 and learning about the latest trends and the future of healthcare IT.

Nicole Rudolph is a senior at Montana Tech and is working towards a bachelor's degree in Healthcare Informatics and a minor in Computer Science.