

CAHIIM Announces Bold Restructuring and Formation of AWI to Champion Global Health Workforce Excellence

Chicago, Illinois — June 2, 2026 — Following a transformative three-year strategic planning initiative launched in 2025, the Board of Directors of the Commission on Accreditation for Health Informatics and Information Management Education (CAHIIM) is proud to announce a new organizational structure designed to meet the evolving needs of the healthcare industry.

To create a dedicated space for future initiatives and expand its impact, CAHIIM has established three additional organizations: the Commission on Accreditation for Health Sciences Education (CAHSE), the Commission on Accreditation for Healthcare Services Management (CAHSM), and the Health Workforce Association (HWA). All three entities will operate under the governance of a new parent organization, Accreditation and Workforce Innovations (AWI).

A Unified Vision for Academic and Professional Success

This strategic expansion signals an integrated vision that combines traditional academic accreditation with agile professional development. Under the leadership of AWI, the organizations will serve distinct yet complementary roles:

CAHIIM: Leveraging its prestigious reputation and legacy since 2011, CAHIIM remains steadfast in its commitment to accrediting Health Informatics (HI) and Health Information Management (HIM) programs.

CAHSE: Developed after an environmental analysis identified a critical lack of oversight in the broader health sciences field, CAHSE will focus on servicing Health Science academic programs at the associate, baccalaureate, and master's levels.

CAHSM: This global entity will specialize in accrediting academic programs in healthcare services management and related fields at various degree levels.

HWA: Representing innovation and agility, HWA marks a bold move beyond academia. It will focus on non-academic education, providing a new space for professional development, career advancement, and lifelong learning to strengthen the health workforce in practice.

Commitment to Workforce Readiness

Since its inception, CAHIIM has been dedicated to developing rigorous standards and curricular competencies. The formation of AWI ensures that this commitment to excellence scales with the industry. By bridging the gap between academic education and professional practice, these organizations ensure that graduates and professionals are uniquely prepared for the modern workforce.

Dr. Angela Kennedy, the former CAHIIM CEO, has been named CEO of AWI. Dr. Kennedy stated, “AWI marks a turning point for healthcare. By uniting CAHIIM, CAHSE, CAHSM and HWA under one umbrella, we’ll fuse rigorous accreditation with dynamic professional development to build a resilient, high-performing workforce. As AWI CEO, I’m focused on translating classroom excellence into frontline impact bridging education and practice so professionals drive innovation, elevate the healthcare workforce, and lead with integrity. Our integrated framework sets a gold standard for quality, consistency, and lifelong learning across health professions.”

Dr. Kennedy added, *“AWI’s structure merges accreditation with ongoing workforce development, signaling a durable commitment to lifecycle learning from education to practice. Aligning CAHIIM, CAHSE, CAHSM, and HWA creates a cohesive ecosystem that emphasizes rigorous standards and agile upskilling, helping institutions and employers speak a common language about quality and readiness. This approach positions AWI to scale standardization, transparency, and continuous improvement across accreditation, higher education, and broader health sciences training.”*

The new structure allows AWI to serve as the umbrella organization for an integrated ecosystem of quality assurance, ensuring that the transition from the classroom to the healthcare frontline is seamless and standardized.

Dr. Kim Theodos, Chair of AWI Board of Directors, stated, *“Leaning into our evolving role in healthcare and higher education, AWI will serve as a convener to unify and align our collective efforts. AWI is positioned to lead the broader ecosystem by ensuring sustainability, inspiring innovation and fostering mission-driven growth.”*

As Dr. Kennedy steps into the role of CEO of AWI, Amanda Stefan will become the Executive Director of CAHIIM. She commented, *“This innovative restructuring of an accrediting body enables us to meet the needs of Health Information, Health Informatics, and diverse Health Science programs. CAHIIM, CAHSE, and CAHSM will set the gold standard for quality distinctions across colleges and universities. I’m honored to serve as Executive Director of CAHIIM.”*

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About AWI

Accreditation and Workforce Innovations (AWI) is the governing body for CAHIIM, CAHSE, CAHSM, and HWA. AWI represents a bold, integrated vision for the future of health education, combining academic accreditation and professional workforce development to ensure excellence in the health sector.

About CAHIIM

The Commission on Accreditation for Health Informatics and Information Management Education (CAHIIM) is a programmatic accreditor that has served the public since 2011. CAHIIM is dedicated to quality education in health informatics and information management to ensure a high-quality health workforce.

About CAHSE, CAHSM, and HWA

The Commission on Accreditation for Health Science Education (CAHSE) focuses on accrediting multi-degree level academic programs in health science and the Commission on Accreditation for Healthcare Services Management (CAHSM) specializes in accrediting academic programs globally in healthcare services management. To support ongoing professional development, the Health Workforce Association (HWA) accredits non-academic education and lifelong learning for health professionals.