The LEADERSHIP AWARD honors those individuals or groups who have provided outstanding service as leaders; demonstrated ongoing leadership competency with the Association and the HIM profession; adhered to and advocated for the AHIMA Code of Ethics, and other appropriate codes of conduct; valued honesty, integrity and transparency and worked as team players/collaborators; been recognized as a qualified authority in the HIM profession; and presented a positive professional image for the Association and the profession.

The Leadership Award honors individuals who have provided outstanding service as leaders in the health information management field. The varied and sustained accomplishments of Mary Beth Haugen, MS, RHIA, merit recognition as such an outstanding leader.

Ms. Haugen possesses a track record as a visionary. Long before it became common, she saw the value of merging an HIM department with an information services department, leading to a successful integration. She has worked in numerous stages of software application implementation, ranging from launching a computerized provider order entry program to executing the first fully electronic health record (EHR) in a Denver-area facility in the early 2000s. Her HIM knowledge led her to restructure workflow in a hospital department, resulting in a decrease in accounts receivable of $10 million. She has served on a number of healthcare vendor user groups to advise future direction of technology builds. She continues to innovate by creating her own consulting firm, named in 2015 as one of Colorado's Companies to Watch.

Ms. Haugen is well known within the HIM community for her many contributions. She has served on the AHIMA Board of Directors and as an AHIMA Foundation Board Member. Her participation has aided numerous committees at the national and state levels, including the AHIMA HIMR and Leadership Institute Advisory Taskforces, the AHIMA EHR Practice Council, and served as Colorado HIMA delegate, treasurer and Education Committee co-chair.

Ms. Haugen shares her HIM knowledge and skills broadly. She served as adjunct faculty in the HIM programs of Regis University and the University of Cincinnati and site preceptor for HIM students. She is a nationally recognized speaker and author on the issues of information governance, the legal health record, the EHR, and leadership.

A highly respected colleague, Ms. Haugen’s leadership influence is felt across the HIM community. AHIMA congratulates Ms. Haugen as the recipient of the 2017 Leadership Triumph Award.