Health Information Technology graduate Mary Girard says medical coding is the "narration" of healthcare, making it possible to track and manage patient health problems.

Sunday, February 19

Family Bowling Day Benefit

$1 Donations benefit Monroe County Big Brothers, Big Sisters

Volunteers needed for Lemonade Day

Work with young entrepreneurs!
Sunday, February 19
12 - 4 p.m. at Classic Lanes

Family Bowling Day
Benefit

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Please join Ivy Tech and the Ivy Tech Alumni Association on Sunday, February 19 at Classic Lanes (421 North Willis Drive, Bloomington, IN) for an afternoon filled with pizza, snacks, drinks, and of course bowling!

Hosted by Ivy Tech’s Campus Activities Board and the Alumni Association, Family Bowling Day will run from 12 p.m. to 4 p.m. The cost is only $1.00 per person, shoe rental is included. All proceeds benefit Big Brothers, Big Sisters of South Central Indiana. Family and Friends are welcome to attend!

For questions about Family Bowling Day, please contact Emilee Mahrey at emahrey@ivytech.edu or 812-330-6293. Hope to see you there!

For questions about Lemonade Day Bloomington, please contact Melissa Mabrey at mmabrey@ivytech.edu or 812-330-6293.

Volunteers needed for Lemonade Day
Work with young entrepreneurs

In 2011, 120,000 kids in 31 cities across America and Canada participated. Each child who registers for Lemonade Day Bloomington will receive a backpack with an Entrepreneur Workbook that teaches them the 14 lessons of Lemonade Day like creating budgets, setting profit-making goals, serving customers, re-paying investors, and giving back to the community. Along the way, they acquire skills in goal-setting, problem solving, and gain self-esteem critical for future success. They keep all the money they make and are encouraged to spend some, save some, and share some.

Lemonade Day Bloomington will launch on May 19, 2012. Building up to the main event, we will host a variety of workshops teaching kids how to write a business plan, build a stand, and create a lemonade recipe. Pre-Lemonade Day activities will also include competitions for "best tasting lemonade" and "best stand."

Volunteer with us!
Ivy Tech alumni volunteers are needed in workshops, stuffing backpacks, as well as helping kids with their Lemonade Day workbooks. If you are interested in volunteering or supporting financially, please contact Noel Niehaus at the Gayle & Bill Cook Center for Entrepreneurship at (812) 330-6261 or email nniehaus@ivytech.edu. www.bloomington.lemonadeday.org

The "narration" of healthcare
Medical coding is the "narration" of healthcare, making it possible to track and manage patient health problems.

About four years ago it occurred to me that my position as an office professional for a small Bloomington business had run its course. The growth and earning potential of that job were tapped. It was up to me to redirect myself and get re-educated in order to find financial security and new challenges.

"Professional medical coding intrigues me because it involves the "narration" of healthcare. Through Health Information, the written words of the healthcare provider are analyzed and transformed into searchable data via numerical values assigned to diagnoses and procedures.

I began taking night classes at Ivy Tech Community College in the spring of 2006. I was thinking about going into Radiography. During the first session of my Anatomology class a woman announced her intent to get a degree in Health Information Technology (HIT). I turned around, introduced myself to Kavice Collins and asked her to tell me what Health Information was about. We have been good friends ever since.

Not too long after that, I met with the HIT program chair, Kathy Craig to discuss the program. She outlined an intensive 18-month program that would require me to leave my full-time position and dedicate myself to learning as much as possible about Health Information. Health Information covers a broad range of career paths – from medical coding to HIPAA enforcement, to informatics in the health care field. A large portion of the focus of the Ivy Tech Health Information Technology degree is medical coding and that is where I really began to become excited about my future career.

Professional medical coding intrigues me because it involves the "narration" of healthcare. Through Health Information, the written words of the healthcare provider are analyzed and transformed into searchable data via numerical values assigned to diagnoses and procedures.

I graduated from Ivy Tech Community College Bloomington in May of 2011 and immediately accepted a position as Professional Practice coder with Schneck Medical Center.

I am grateful for my education at Ivy Tech because as a returning woman student (I received my bachelor’s from University Chicago in 1996), I needed to make an investment in education for a specific workforce (Allied Healthcare) in order to get the best return on my time and effort. Ivy Tech professors are some of the most dedicated I have met in all my educational career. Kathy Craig and Paula Perry inspired me every day to work hard and prepare myself for the national exam, the Registered Health Information Technologist exam. Chris Carroll helped me succeed in my computer courses that really challenged me. All of my professors gave their time and expertise freely, so that I could understand more, work harder and succeed in my goal of re-education for the modern workforce.

I am also grateful for the financial assistance I received during my time at Ivy Tech. My awards are listed below.

Scholarships Received:

2008: City of Bloomington (total amount $1200)
2009: Ivy Tech Health Information Technology Scholarship ($1000)
April 2010: Lila M Argue Scholarship
June 2010: Ivy Tech Health Information Technology Scholarship ($1000)
August 2010: Ivy Tech Health Information Technology Scholarship ($1000)
January 2011: Ivy Tech Health Information Technology Scholarship ($1000)

Mary Girard, RHT, CCS-P
1989, and my masters from DePaul University Chicago in 1996. I needed to make an investment in education for a specific workforce (Allied Healthcare) in order to get the best return on my time and effort. Ivy Tech professors are some of the most dedicated I have met in all my educational career. Kathy Craig and Paula Perry inspired me every day to work hard and prepare myself for the national exam, the Registered Health Information Technologist exam. Chris Carroll helped me succeed in my computer courses that really challenged me. All of my professors gave their time and expertise freely, so that I could understand more, work harder and succeed in my goal of re-education for the modern workforce.

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