**Professional Networking**

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GS- 299 Integrative Capstone

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The first name of one the professional organizations is called The American Academy of Professional Coders (AAPC). Which is the nation’s largest medical coding training and certification organization. It has more than 93,000 medical coders and auditors. They are widely recognized for credentialing both physician and hospital-based coders and are expanding to service practices in many ways, such as law offices.

 To join their organization as a student it costs $145.00 annually but with my school it's free for the first five years. So many benefits come with being a AAPC remember such as with receiving discounts on the certificate test, preparation materials, workshop fees, and other products. They also offer access to continuing education opportunities and a job database. Once you become a member, they automatically subscribe you to their monthly publication called “The Coding Edge”, which keeps the member up to date on latest changes to the field.

 In addition to these benefits, they have a regional conference called Health Con Regional 2024 and that would be in August of this year from the 26th to the 28th in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania or it can be done hybrid. They also have a national Health Con which this year was held in April of this year from the 6th to the 9th in Las Vegas with over 60 speakers; next year it will be in Orlando.

The second one is called American Health Information Management Association “AHIMA”, which is highly respected in the area of hospital and physical coders. They organize a variety of training programs, and it costs $49.00 to join annually as a student.

 Benefits include career advancement resources, access to an online community platform and free quarterly membership webinars. They have an annual conference called WHIMA which stands for Wisconsin help info Management Association this year was May 8th to the 9th at the Elkhart Lake in Wisconsin.