PROFESSOR CATHARINE HUBER
Professor Emeritus 2013

Professor Catharine Huber taught at Sinclair Community College for 30, from 1980 to 2010. Catharine Huber RHIA, MA began her instructional career in the Health Information Management (HIM) department in 1980. She served as Chairperson from 1981 to 1997. She received her BS in Health Information Management from The Ohio State University and her MA in Educational Technology Leadership from George Washington University. Cathy also completed courses in the Interactive Media Fast Track program at Edison Community College. She served on numerous Sinclair committees: chaired the Curriculum committee and Department Chairpersons’ Council (DCC); was a Faculty Consultant in multimedia development and distance learning in the Center for Interactive Learning (pre-Distance Learning department) and coordinated ALH 104 (Allied Health Informatics) online making it one of the first scalable web courses.

She was president-elect, president and past president of the Miami Valley Health Information Management Association. Cathy served the Ohio Health Information Management Association in many capacities including Treasurer, Membership Services Coordinator, and Project Leader of many initiatives throughout the 80s and 90s. In 1982, she was elected to a three-year term to Council on Certification of the American Health Information Management Association. Over the years, Cathy prepared and delivered many presentations to professional and community groups. In 1994 and 1995 she was a co-presenter with other Sinclair faculty and staff at the League for Innovation in the Community College. In 2000, Cathy received the Distinguished Member award from the Miami Valley Health Information Management Association and LEES Award from the ALH/LHS Division.

Under Cathy’s tenure as Chair, Sinclair’s HIM program became one of the most respected programs in the country. The American Health Information Management Association (AHIMA) frequently referred other colleges attempting to begin HIM programs to visit Sinclair’s program as a “best practices” example. She had a knack for seeing the future direction of the HIM profession; fusing curriculum that met the knowledge and skill clusters required by AHIMA with experiential course content which prepared skilled graduates sought after by employers. Cathy successfully guided the department through two program surveys, each resulting in program accreditation for the full 10-year period allowed. The pass rate of graduates on the national credentialing examination over the last 30 years is over 97% which is almost unparalleled in other HIM programs. Students consistently score above the national mean on all areas of the certification exam.

As a classroom instructor, Cathy constantly strived to improve her course and her instructional style. She has often admitted that one of the reasons she was so busy is because she never taught a course the same way twice. She was constantly improving her presentations and learning activities and trying new approaches to help students excel. Cathy implemented small group projects and collaborative learning activities in her course long before most faculty realized their value.
Cathy had the enviable ability to see opportunities that the rest of us might miss. She was one of the first instructors to use a computer in the classroom in the early 1980s. In collaboration with a vendor out of New Haven, CT; HIM students could access and perform computerized HIM functions using GRC Tri-Star mini-computer linked to three “dumb” Hazeltine terminals. The HIM student used 8” floppy disks to save their data. She also implemented computerized flowcharting prior to its adoption by the Computer Information Science department at Sinclair. She soon had a lab full of PCs available for student use.

She was a forerunner in the use of online teaching, which ultimately led to the HIM program being the first fully online technical program at Sinclair. Cathy also developed the online coding courses for the Coding and Billing Certificate. She became one of Sinclair’s faculty expert on distance learning. Cathy worked on developing and presenting faculty training sessions and mentoring faculty developing web course and web-based course enhancements.

Catharine Huber is a fitting recipient for the Professor Emeritus designation. She has done so much to benefit the ALH/ELH, the college and its students that the honor is well deserved.