AAMA update

2026 Conference Highlights

Nearly 500 people from near and far enjoyed new educational possibilities at the 70th AAMA Annual Conference in Reno, Nevada. Thank you for making this event a success!

Many thanks to the Conference Education Committee, the Southwest region members, and the 2025–2026 Annual Conference Committee for a fun and informative weekend.

The AAMA congratulates all the Excel Award winners who took home awards and Mary Dey, BAS, CMA-AC (AAMA), for receiving the 2026 AAMA Life Member Award.



Want to Submit Your Membership Dues Renewal via Mail?

Keep an eye on your mailbox in November for the 2027 Membership Dues Remittance Form so you can renew your membership by mail for the 2027 membership term. ✦

Introducing *Inside the AAMA with Annie*

Get an inside look at what's happening across the AAMA community with *Inside the AAMA with Annie*, a new monthly series. AAMA Executive Director Annie Storey, MS, CAE, will share updates from across the association, discuss developments in the profession, and offer a look at what's ahead.

Whether you're a longtime AAMA member or new to the association, *Inside the AAMA with Annie* allows you to stay connected, informed, and engaged with the work happening throughout the medical assisting profession. Check your inbox for updates on new episodes, and watch previous episodes on the AAMA YouTube channel. ✦

Standout Students

Congratulations to this year's recipients of the Maxine Williams Scholarship:



Name: Bliaal Alvi

Expected Graduation: September 2026

Institution: Hunter Business School

In Their Own Words: "[Medical assistants] are always the ones that left an impression. I want to be part of that. I want to help people feel better and more comfortable."



Name: Sandra Coker

Expected Graduation: April 2026

Institution: Bryant & Stratton College

In Their Own Words: "More than anything, I want to be someone who makes a real difference in people's lives. I know I cannot change everything, but if I can ease someone's pain, support them through a difficult moment, or help them feel cared for, then I know I am fulfilling my purpose."



Name: Sharon Finco

Expected Graduation: May 2026

Institution: College of Southern Idaho

In Their Own Words: "I want to be the kind of medical assistant that lights up the faces of providers and patients alike, building those long-term professional

©2026 American Association of Medical Assistants

relationships [in which] patients feel seen and providers know they have a [medical assistant] they can trust and rely upon."



Name: Corey Finelli

Expected Graduation: May 2026

Institution: Sussex County Community College

In Their Own Words: "I realized I am most fulfilled when I am helping others in meaningful, tangible ways. Health care provides that opportunity every day. … I am drawn to the hands-on nature of the profession and the ability to make patients feel comfortable, heard, and cared for during what can often be stressful experiences."



Name: Jordan Harris

Expected Graduation: August 2026

Institution: Gaston College

In Their Own Words: "Early in life, I knew I wanted to work in the health care field! … In five years, I believe serving as a [CMA (AAMA)] in a local doctor's office would be a great career for me and allow me to help others feel better in my local community!"



Name: Shania Harrison

Expected Graduation: August 2026

Institution: ECPI University

In Their Own Words: "I chose medical assisting because helping others has always been important to me, especially through my experience taking care of my relatives. Being there for them showed me how much of a difference it makes when someone is patient, understanding, and truly cares."



Name: Crystal Parsons

Expected Graduation: July 2026

Institution: College of the Albemarle

In Their Own Words: "Medical assisting is the perfect fit for me because it allows me to combine both clinical and administrative skills. I enjoy working directly with patients, but I also thrive in multitasking and handling front-office responsibilities. This career gives me the best of both worlds."



Name: Ashley Robles

Expected Graduation: December 2026

Institution: Cape Fear Community College

In Their Own Words: "Wanting someone to live their best life comes naturally for me. Now, I am learning how to help them get there. Medical assisting is a heavily team-based career, and I look forward to growing my capability to work with others and problem solve as a team."



Name: Natalie Rodriguez Garcia

Expected Graduation: August 2026

Institution: Tarrant County College

In Their Own Words: "I've learned that everyone starts somewhere, and I chose to begin with the foundation or backbone of the medical field so I can continue opening doors to future opportunities."



Name: Briana White

Expected Graduation: May 2026

Institution: College of Western Idaho

In Their Own Words: "I thrive on helping people, because I know what it is to need help, and this career graciously gives me the tools I need to do just that." ✦

Catch Up with Scholarship Winners!

Learn more about the recipients of the the Maxine Williams Scholarship in Honor of Crystal Coleman, CMA (AAMA), and this award on the AAMA website. ✦