

Student Ambassador Project

OBJECTIVE: A volunteer position(s) on the local chapter/state level whereby CAAHEP medical assisting graduates who have obtained the CMA (AAMA) credential would be permitted to visit their own, and other, CAAHEP accredited medical assisting programs in the capacity of "Student Ambassador," by entering classes at different intervals of the programs (e.g. beginning, midway, and near graduation) to give students their perspective so they can connect what they're learning, how it will help them on the job, and why they must continue on with taking the exam, obtaining the credential, and becoming members of the professional organization; all this from someone who has "been there, done that."

The Student Ambassador would serve as a role model for current students to aspire to, and at the same time, make the connection early and often with the students that membership in the AAMA is really a no-brainer; that they will want not to just "get by" and graduate, but take the exam and become certified, and join the organization that grants the credential.

The ambassador will be well-versed on the value of AAMA membership and its benefits, not only of having a network of CMAs (AAMA) from their local chapter, state society, and national organization behind them in their chosen career, but also the tangible benefits they'll enjoy, such as discounts on attending CEU sessions, and group insurance discounts. Student Ambassadors will serve as AAMA "cheerleaders." They may also be able to meet with the students accompanied by a chapter or state officer/board member, or even the Student Ambassador's own supervisor or physician employer—all this for the added "wow" factor to impress upon the students what can be in store for them if they are open to it.

The following is a *suggested* approach in outline form, and speaks from the local chapter viewpoint; however, the Student Ambassador role could also be a state society position, such as a committee chair, with local chapter student ambassadors serving this chair on her/his committee.

1. Local chapter requests volunteer to serve as Student Ambassador to their local accredited program(s) - if multiple programs in same city, a grad from each could serve at their former school.
 - a. Ambassadors approach local program directors with requests to speak with classes at varying stages of study.

- b. Ambassadors approach classes with personal experiences as well as incorporate information about the AAMA, the value of membership and benefits, information regarding the certification examination and the resulting credential, and the overall importance of this to their career goals.
 - c. Ambassadors would take AAMA informational/promotional materials, to share with students and leave a supply of same with program director.
- 2. Ambassadors invite students to local chapter meetings as their guests. (Suggest no more than two to three students per volunteer. Ambassador can rotate invitees).
 - a. Utilize a 15 minute window of time at the meeting to specifically address students with information (break out session).
 - b. Care should be made to not push or pressure students – be polite, friendly, informative, inviting, but don't pressure.
- 3. Ambassadors might speak with program director(s) and offer additional services (e.g. tutoring, assistance with studying, or to act as "information outlets" for students).
 - a. Ambassadors provide their e-mail address and/or phone numbers to program directors.
 - b. Ambassadors take time to stop by classes if possible to just say "hello" – physical presence helps to create awareness.
- 4. Ambassadors learn when local medical assisting programs begin new classes.
 - a. Host a "social" night for new students with local chapter members about mid-way through first semester.
 - b. Provide informational hand outs and encourage local chapter members to "befriend" new students as well.
- 5. Ambassadors could solicit suggestions from program directors as to which student(s) appear willing to be groomed for the Student Ambassador role post graduation. *And the legacy begins ...*

Kathy Nixon-Turner, CMA (AAMA), CPC, *Project Coach*
Lisa DiToro, CMA (AAMA), *Student Team Member*
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