



**hfma**

healthcare financial management association

## **PENDING RELEASE**

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### **Souza Earns Fellow of HFMA**

**Chicago, IL – September 10, 2013** – The Healthcare Financial Management Association (HFMA) has awarded Michael Souza, senior vice president, Hospital Association of Rhode Island, the certification of Fellow (FHFMA) – a recognized marker of leadership and professionalism.

Souza, an HFMA member for more than a decade and HFMA Massachusetts/Rhode Island Chapter participant, earned this prominent designation by demonstrating a significant level of expertise, service, and commitment to transforming the healthcare finance industry.

Souza is senior vice president at the Hospital Association of Rhode Island (HARI), where he directs member services in the areas of health care economic policy, information collection and analysis and insurance. He also oversees internal administrative functions including accounting, human resources, information services, insurance, computer systems and facilities.

“We recognize Souza as a leader who has demonstrated a depth of expertise that is critical to shaping our future,” said HFMA President and CEO Joseph J. Fifer, FHFMA, CPA. “Earning this distinction signifies a commitment of excellence and dedication to make a positive change in our industry.”

The FHFMA certification is the organization’s most elite professional certification. By earning the right to include this designation among their credentials, Fellows have demonstrated that they have achieved a gold standard in technical proficiency. This achievement signals a personal commitment to improving expertise and advancing professionalism.

To be awarded the FHFMA distinction, applicants must be credentialed as a certified health care financial professional; be an HFMA member for at least five years; complete a bachelor’s degree or 120 semester hours from an accredited college or university; and volunteer in HFMA or the industry. More than 1,800 individuals have received this honor in the organization’s 68 year history.

HFMA currently offers three levels of certification: Certified Revenue Cycle Professional (CRCR), Certified Healthcare Finance Professional (CHFP) and Fellow (FHFMA).

### **About HFMA**

The Healthcare Financial Management Association (HFMA) provides the resources healthcare organizations need to achieve sound fiscal health in order to provide excellent patient care. With more than 40,000 members, HFMA is the nation’s leading membership organization of healthcare finance executives and leaders. HFMA helps its members achieve results by providing education, analysis, and guidance, and creating practical tools and solutions that optimize financial management. The organization is a respected and innovative thought leader on top trends and challenges facing the healthcare finance industry. From addressing capital access to improved patient care to technology advancement, HFMA is the indispensable resource for healthcare finance. [hfma.org](http://hfma.org)