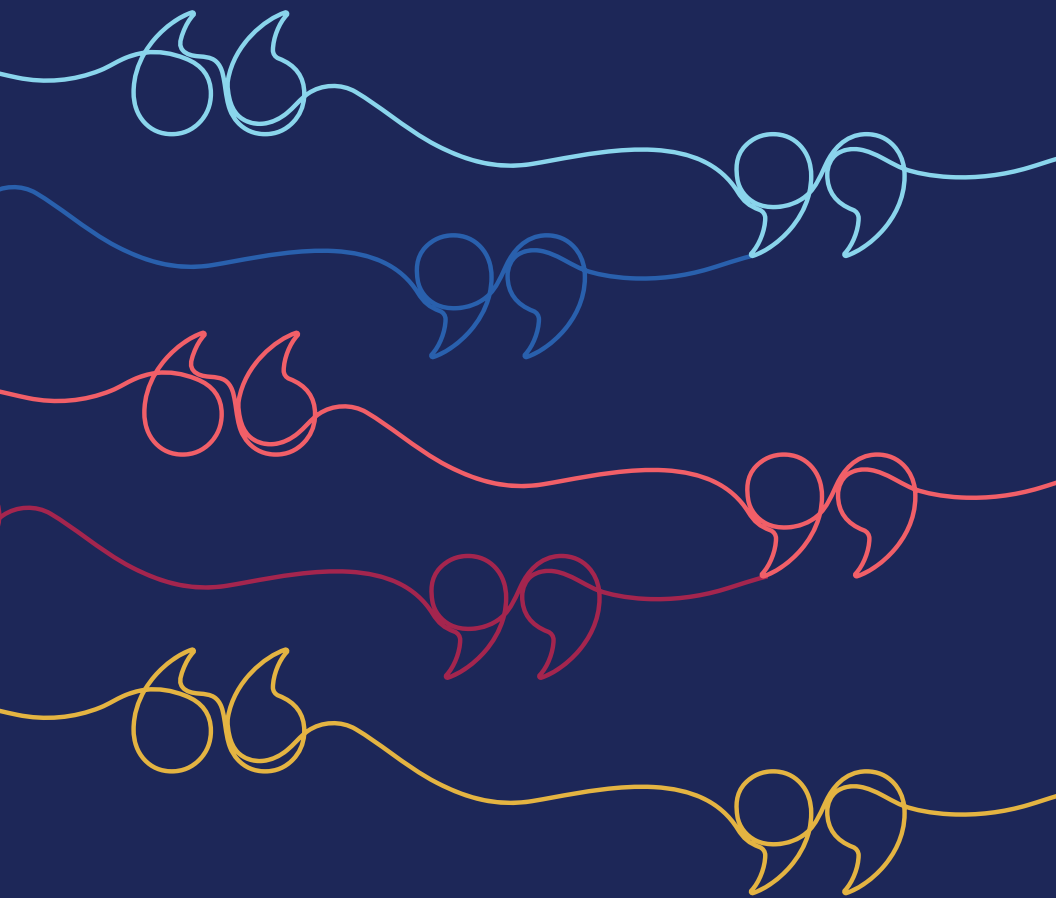


STORIES

A PUBLICATION FOR REGISTERED TECHNOLOGISTS



THE AMERICAN
REGISTRY OF RADIOLOGIC
TECHNOLOGISTS®

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ARRT at a Glance



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A MESSAGE FROM CEO LIANA WATSON

DM, R.T.(R)(M)(S)(BS)(ARRT), RDMS, RVT, FASRT, PMP, CAE, ICE-CCP

Three years ago, when I stepped into the role of ARRT's CEO and shared my first message in *Stories Magazine*, I reflected on the future of our profession:

"My vision is to build on ARRT's century of excellence as we anticipate and meet the expectations of R.T.s, health care facilities, and patients—for tomorrow and for the next 100 years."

Today, we are making meaningful progress toward that vision in many different ways:

- » Proactively addressing challenges facing our profession, like workforce shortages and remote scanning, by introducing a new Imaging Assistant, Magnetic Resonance credential to ensure that qualified individuals are providing safe patient care. Together, imaging assistants and MRI registered technologists will collaborate to enhance patient safety and care. Turn the page to learn more.
- » Honoring outstanding R.T.s in our field through our annual I Am the Gold Standard Award. (page 5)
- » Sponsoring student and emerging leader initiatives, funding grants, and hosting student visits to continue investing in the future of the profession. (page 13)
- » Celebrating right along with you on social media when you earn your first credential (#WeAreARRT). (page 14)
- » Enhancing useful resources based on your feedback—like the Discover ARRT video series for educators and by making the Program Director website easier to use. Simplifying how to do business with us continues to be a top priority. (page 17)
- » Creating new ways to better meet your needs, including our upcoming no-cost virtual Educator Symposium featuring topics you want to learn more about. Sign up to learn more. (page 17)

I'm excited to introduce you to just a few of the names, faces, and stories of the individuals who make up our community of dedicated professionals, all committed to delivering safe, high-quality patient care.



INTRODUCING

IMAGING ASSISTANT, Magnetic Resonance Credential

A New Pathway to Safer, Smarter MR Care

Fast facts about ARRT's newest credential:

- Helps maintain compliance with MR Level 2 safety standards
- Supports MR technologists with patient care and positioning
- Addresses workforce needs in remote scanning environments
- Developed through a practice analysis with MR technologists, managers, and radiologists
- Backed by ARRT's 100+ years of credibility

Candidates will be able to apply to take the exam starting summer 2026. The exam will be available in fall 2026.



**SCAN FOR
MORE DETAILS**

I AM THE
G  **LD**
STANDARD
WINNERS





GOLD STANDARD
WINNER

KEVIN DUNCAN

MSRS, R.R.A., R.T.(R)
(ARRT), RDMS, RVT



As a sports loving pre-teen with the typical strains and sprains, Kevin Duncan was in and out of the orthopedics office on a regular basis. "Seeing bones on the lightbox was the coolest thing to me," he recalls. "I wanted to be an orthopedic surgeon."

But sometimes plans change, and a new path emerges.

Strength to Do Hard Things

First, Duncan had a hurdle to overcome. No one in his family had ever attended college, and both of his parents dropped out of school. He didn't think he had a chance to go to college. Fortunately, buoyed by his teachers' encouragement, his faith, and his mother's mantra, "we have the strength to do hard things," Duncan not only attended college, he went on to earn his master's degree and multiple ARRT credentials.

Best-Laid Plans

A true pragmatist and planner, Duncan decided to attend Morehead State University's two-year radiologic science program in Kentucky and earn his ARRT certification, and then continue on his educational path to become an orthopedic surgeon.

And then a serendipitous series of events happened.

During a clinical rotation, Duncan observed a difficult hip replacement by an orthopedic surgeon. The experience made him question his long-term career goal. Shortly after that, he did an ultrasound rotation. "I'll never forget it," he says. "One of the sonographers was consulting with the radiologist about a patient's exam results. When she showed the doctor her findings, he couldn't see it in the image and asked to see more. Once he saw the additional

images, he immediately agreed with the sonographer.”

A light bulb went off. He knew that was exactly the kind of responsibility he was looking for. “The value and challenge of capturing really good images for radiologists, the relationship with the radiologist, the quality you have control over, and the ability to manipulate the image, was like art to me,” says Duncan.

Once this realization crystalized, he quickly switched to ultrasound, finished his associates degree, and earned his ARRT R.T.(R) credential.

Ultrasound Champion

Within eight months of being hired by the University of Kentucky HealthCare (UKHC), Duncan moved from radiology sonographer to lead sonographer. He embraced the added leadership responsibilities. Right away he spearheaded an initiative to add sonography students to the hospital. “I love teaching,” he says. “It’s vital for the next generation of radiographers.” It also turned out to be a great recruiting tool—ultimately leading to the growth of the department from three to eight sonographers.

He also created a four week ultrasound rotation for radiology residents. “What if they work somewhere without good scanners or sonographers? The patient will look to their doctor for answers,” he remarks. “I’m passionate about sending radiologists out into the world to be great scanners,” he adds.

During his 16-year tenure at UKHC, Duncan was instrumental in changing

the culture from quantity to quality. While efficiency is important, taking quality images is the goal. As a leader, his focus was on patient care and creating an environment to “be present and show you really care.”

Says Dr. Adrian Dawkins, his manager, “Kevin reaches for the stars. He is a true ultrasound champion. He easily rose through the ranks, teaching and inspiring other techs, and is truly ‘quality personified.’” “I’m in awe of his drive and determination; he always strives for more,” he adds.

A New Mission

Several years ago, Duncan was ready for his next challenge. After much contemplation and counsel, he decided to go back to school for a Master of Science in Radiologic Sciences (MSRS) – Radiologist Assistant (RA) degree. While attending Midwestern State University, as the sole provider for his family, Duncan also worked full-time (up to 70 hours a week!) and completed his preceptorship. Then just 38 days before graduation, he underwent open heart surgery. The surgery went well, and despite a 12-week recovery, he graduated on time Magna Cum Laude and passed his R.R.A. exam a month later.

Now he’s back at UKHC as the first R.R.A. on staff, where he collaborates with physicians and administrators to better serve the local community as they grow the RA profession.

“My mission now is to put all my passion and energy into being an R.R.A. advocate,” says Duncan. 🌟



GOLD STANDARD
WINNER

ASHER STREET BEAM

DHA, R.T.(R)(MR)(ARRT), MRSO

A classically trained pianist, Asher Street Beam began playing by ear when she was just five years old. “The first song I played was the theme to “The Young and the Restless,” which came on right after “The Price is Right” before I started attending school,” she recalls.

Beam also has a gift for teaching. “Both of my parents were teachers, so I always knew I was meant to teach. It’s where I belong,” she says.

Turns out her other gift is a passion for magnetic resonance imaging (MRI). From the moment she started her MRI rotation as a student in the radiologic technology certificate program at the University of Mississippi Medical Center (UMMC), Beam was hooked.

Put together the discipline she learned as a pianist with her gift for teaching and love of MRI—along with a deep foundation in family, faith, and community—and you get to the heart of what makes Beam tick.

Accomplished MRI Educator & Leader

Grounded in seven years of MRI clinical practice at the University of Mississippi Medical Center, in 2013 Beam transitioned to the academic side of the institution. She quickly advanced from instructor to assistant professor, associate professor, earned her doctorate in health administration from the University of Mississippi, and was promoted to full professor this past summer.

Beam has thrived in her department's collaborative culture of excellence, where the number one priority is, in her words, "teaching students and making our profession shine." Adds Kristi Moore, PhD, R.T.(R)(CT)(ARRT), her department chair, "I've had the pleasure of seeing Asher evolve from a talented student into an outstanding educator and leader. She's creative, innovative, and deeply committed to elevating both her students and our profession."

One of her first accomplishments when she joined the department was developing MRI curriculum. "At that time, we didn't have an MRI program, and few resources were available for technologists," explains Beam. As a self-described idea person who likes to solve problems, she took the challenge head on, creating a curriculum from the ground up. That was the start of building a formal program. Beam was instrumental in creating a program-matically accredited Master of Science in Magnetic Resonance Imaging degree program at UMMC, where she now serves as program director and lead educator to prepare the next generation of MRI technologists.

Her leadership extends beyond the classroom as well, including serving on multiple R.T. industry committees. Beam has been widely recognized for her excellence in radiologic sciences, earning numerous prestigious awards.

Teacher at Heart

Along with her many accomplishments, Beam is truly a teacher at heart. "Asher has an extraordinary ability to take something as complex as MRI or Radiologic Physics and make it come alive for her students," notes Moore. Former student and current colleague, Kala Burchfield, MSMRI, R.T.(R)(MR)(ARRT) concurs. "I'll never forget her creative ways of breaking down difficult material—like her "cats in a box" analogy or having her cat "John Wayne" teach us about signals." As further testament to Beam's impact, she keeps in touch with almost every student she has taught.

Being part of the students' journey from beginning to end is what Beam finds most rewarding as a program director and educator. She uses the ARRT exam format as a framework for developing curriculum and turns to our Item Writing Manual to create teaching materials and tests. "Students find it helpful and reassuring to know that my teaching materials are based on ARRT formatting and methods," she notes.

"Registry day is my favorite time of the year," says Beam. "When I see my students' ARRT exam scores, I can see tangible results from giving everything I've got to prepare them." With a 100% first attempt pass rate every year since the program's inception, she has much to celebrate. 🎉



GOLD STANDARD
WINNER

CHANDLER COLLINS

MSRS, R.T.(T)(MR)(ARRT), CPHQ



“As the saying goes, Chandler is truly one in a million. His drive to improve everything he touches is nothing short of inspiring. On his own initiative, he designed and 3D-printed accessories that enhance workflows—identifying a need, devising a solution, and teaching himself how to bring it to life.

Chandler is equally talented in graphic design, programmatic coding, and problem-solving as he is a radiation therapist. His meticulous attention to detail has refined numerous proton workflows, ensuring the highest level of safety and care for patients. He is meant to do big things, and I have no doubt our profession will continue to hear his name.”

- Neil Hughes, MBA, MRSO, R.T.(R)(T)(CT)(MR)(ARRT), Clinical Manager, Radiation Therapy - Proton Center, MD Anderson Cancer Center

Excellence Personified

Chandler Collins always brings his full self to the table in his many roles at MD Anderson Cancer Center over the past seven years. Whether it's providing proton therapy treatment, improving workflows, designing and creating new tools, or training the next generation of radiation therapists. His intense focus on making a difference for cancer patients cuts across all his accomplishments—from operational excellence to continuous learning.

As one of 200 radiation therapists on staff, Collins provides proton radiation therapy treatment to the 700 patients the cancer center is committed to treating every day. This highly specialized type of radiation therapy treatment can precisely deliver high doses of radiation to a tumor to kill cancerous tissues without damaging surrounding healthy tissues.

“Chandler’s work has a real, tangible impact across the clinics,” says colleague Kendall Menz, R.T.(T)(ARRT). “I truly take pride in working alongside Chandler—he plays a vital role in our patients’ cancer journeys, offering both compassion and a steadfast focus on safety.”

Preparing the Next Generation

Because MD Anderson is a teaching institution, training new radiation therapists and students is a critical component of Collins’ work.

“My approach is to make sure the person I’m training feels comfortable and gets lots of hands-on time with patients,” he says. “We want therapists to be very experienced with safety practices in a judgment-free environment, where they’re comfortable reporting safety catches given that we treat 700 patients a day.”

Collins frequently draws from his creative toolbox to make concepts and procedures come to life. He enjoys making animations about how protons work or to illustrate how a pencil beam is delivered. “I’ll use just about anything,” he says, “like taking a stack of sticky notes to show how layers work or grabbing my phone to show an image of a 3-D model of a technique I’m teaching.” He

even applies the software skills he mastered to create digital dice for Hasbro’s online Dungeons and Dragons platform to create new teaching materials at work.



Doing Big Things

Not surprisingly, Collins is driven to take on new challenges. As a member

of the team leading the creation of a second Proton Center at MD Anderson, he helped develop institutional policies and workflows and designed and manufactured devices for daily quality assurance. In 2022, he led the proton center’s first Lean process improvement project, evaluating the setup accuracy of a vendor’s cranio-spinal irradiation device. As a result of his leadership efforts, 22 members of the project team earned Bronze Lean certifications.

The following year Collins earned his post-primary ARRT MR certification. In 2024, Collins went on to become a Certified Professional in Healthcare Quality and was elected to serve as Co-Lead of Quality & Safety on MD Anderson’s Radiation Therapy Shared Governance Committee. He then earned the institution’s Golden Glove award for catching an FDA-reportable bug in a vendor’s software and creating training materials to prevent the issue from recurring.

That same year he also became an Adjunct Professor of Radiation Biology & Safety at Cambridge College of Healthcare & Technology, providing online-based education for radiation therapy students.

What’s Next

In the near future, Collins will start providing treatment on the MR-Linac (linear accelerator), which delivers high-dose radiation to patients inside an MRI machine. He also plans to draw on his experience presenting at national forums to help fellow radiation therapy colleagues develop public speaking skills.

As for his long term plans, the sky’s the limit! 🌌

**Do you know an
outstanding R.T.
who goes above
and beyond?**



NOMINATIONS FOR THE 2026

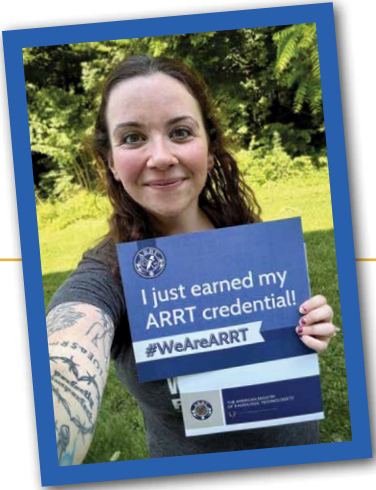
**I AM THE GOLD
STANDARD AWARD
OPEN IN JANUARY!**

STAY TUNED FOR MORE DETAILS.



SUPPORTING THE NEXT GENERATION

STUDENT & EDUCATOR SNAPSHOTS



Celebrating ARRT Credentials— Welcome to Our Community!

Congratulations to all the new R.T.s who earned an ARRT credential so far this year! This major milestone signifies that an individual is qualified and committed to delivering safe, high-quality patient care.

Ashley Busch, Drew Resch, and Moustafa Houmsi are just a few of the new R.T.s who shared their accomplishments on social media. If you recently earned an ARRT credential, we want to celebrate you too! Snap a pic of the mini sign from your welcome packet, share it on social, and tag us using #WeAreARRT.



Student Groups Visit ARRT

This year ARRT welcomed students from St. Catherine University's Radiography program and the Minneapolis Veterans Affairs School of Radiologic Technology to our headquarters in Minnesota. During these engaging and insightful visits, staff from our Education Requirements, Assessments, Ethics Requirements, and Strategic Communications teams had the pleasure of connecting with students through presentations and interactive workshops. Here's what our visitors had to say:

“

Our students really look forward to these visits and find them very helpful. They appreciate learning about exam logistics, renewal processes, and ethics.

— Scott Haglund, MA.Ed, LAT, ATC, R.T.(R)(ARRT), RSO,
Radiography Program Director, St. Catherine University



“

The stories about how each person began working at ARRT opened my eyes to a whole other career option, something I'd never thought of before.

— Radiography Program student, St. Catherine University

Investing in the Future
of the Profession

ARRT is committed to supporting R.T.s through scholarships, educational grants, and professional development opportunities. Here are a few ways we're supporting the future of the profession.

In partnership with the Society of Diagnostic Medical Sonography, ARRT is proud to sponsor the Emerging Leaders Program, which supports students and recent graduates as they grow into tomorrow's leaders of medical imaging. ARRT CEO Liana Watson says, "It's a pleasure to see emerging professionals shaping the future of sonography, and we're honored to be part of their journey."

We also supported the Emerging Technologists Leadership Academy at the 2025 Society of Nuclear Medicine and Molecular Imaging Technologist Section's (SNMMI-TS) annual conference. This immersive two-day academy builds leadership skills for students pursuing careers in nuclear medicine. In addition, ARRT and SNMMI-TS provided career advancement grants to support Nuclear Medicine Technologists seeking to advance their careers through further education and training.

In partnership with the American Society of Radiologic Technologists Foundation, we provided grants to support continuing education and professional development for radiologic technologists, radiation therapists, and sonographers.

Also, in partnership with ASRT, we supported the Royce Osborne Student Scholarship to help students ease the financial burden of an education program.



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For Educators August 6-7, 2026 Virtual Educator Symposium

We're pleased to announce ARRT's upcoming 2026 Educator Virtual Symposium—an engaging, no-cost event created specifically for educators. The event will equip participants with practical knowledge and resources to support teaching and enhance student success. Featuring expert-led sessions, the symposium will focus on topics ranging from writing effective exam questions to preparing students for the ARRT exam.

Interested in attending or learning more? Scan the QR code to join our mailing list and be the first to receive updates and registration details. 🌐



DISCOVER ARRT

Watch our video series
for program directors
and educators on our
YouTube channel:
@TheARRT.

Hear from experts, learn
essential information, and take
away practical tips from each
of our Discover ARRT videos.

Topics include

The Pearson Vue Process

Standard Setting and Exam Scoring

Discipline Documents

Navigating the Program Director Website

Coming Soon ... Helping Students Requalify



Go to our YouTube channel
to watch: @TheARRT



ARRT AT A GLANCE



577,189

Total ARRT credentials held



363,853

Registrants credentialed
through ARRT

50.9%

R.T.s hold more than
one credential from

ARRT's

15

Credentialing
programs

25

Years

ARRT Vascular Sonography and Bone
Densitometry credentials in 2026

25,426

First-time examinees in 2024

+1,075



Volunteers

*STATISTICS ACCURATE AS OF NOVEMBER 2025

20
25

AT A GLANCE



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