

St. Louis Community College to train HIT professionals

RETRAINING PROGRAM FOCUSES ON HEALTH CARE & IT WORKERS

Three hundred health care and information technology students and professionals will be retrained over the next two years in a new grant program designed to increase the number of Health Information Technology (HIT) workers in Missouri.

St. Louis Community College was awarded \$817,194 to administer the grant as a member of the Midwest Community College Consortia component of the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services' HIT Workforce Program. The two-year grant became available last April as a result of the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act of 2009. It has a dual purpose: to help transition the nation to electronic health care records, and help transition laid-off

health care and information technology professionals to new careers.

Classes start Sept. 28 for the Short Term Certificate Programs in HIT. However, admission is competitive and selective. Qualified applicants will be given tuition assistance, but must have experience in IT (project management, technical support, software development, networking, etc.), or health care (health information management, clinical practitioner, practice manager, medical records, medical billing, etc.). The 12-credit-hour courses will begin and end in six months or less. Much of the training will be online and self-directed.

The project's goals are:

1. To train current health career and IT **professionals**

to become HIT professionals equipped to implement, support and integrate electronic health care information systems into diverse health care practice settings with an emphasis on small primary care physician offices, community health centers and rural health centers.

2. To train current health career and IT **students** to become HIT professionals equipped to implement, support and integrate electronic health care information systems into diverse healthcare practice settings.

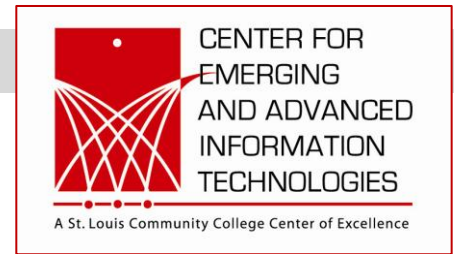
STLCC is the only Missouri college with this curriculum and one of 17 midwestern colleges chosen for this grant project. (See the six workforce roles on the back side.)



FOREST PARK

APPLICATION PROCESS

Send resumes electronically to ktalbot1@stlcc.edu, or by mail to:
 St. Louis Community College at Forest Park
 Attention: Kevin Talbot, Grant Coordinator
 5600 Oakland Avenue, Room D-213
 St. Louis, MO 63110-1316
314-644-9691



SIX WORKFORCE ROLES

At the Forest Park campus, the Center for Emerging and Advanced Information Technologies (CEA-IT), in collaboration with the Information Systems department, stands ready to train a skilled workforce for six workforce roles. The curriculum focuses on job-specific training for roles that support the implementation of electronic health records in the following areas:

1. PRACTICE WORKFLOW & INFORMATION MANAGEMENT REDESIGN SPECIALIST

Workers in this role assist in reorganizing the work of a provider to take full advantage of the features of HIT in pursuit of the meaningful use of EHRs to improve health and care.

2. CLINICIAN/PRACTITIONER CONSULTANT

Similar to the Practice Workflow and Information Management Redesign Specialist role, but in addition to that role's set of competencies, workers bring to bear the *background and experience of a professional licensed to provide clinical care.*

3. IMPLEMENTATION SUPPORT SPECIALIST

Workers in this role provide on-site user support for the period of time before and during implementation of health IT systems in clinical and public health settings. These individuals will provide support services, above and beyond what is provided by the vendor, to be sure the technology functions properly and is configured to meet the needs of the redesigned practice workflow.

4. IMPLEMENTATION MANAGER

In this role, workers provide on-site management of mobile adoption support teams before and during implementation of HIT systems in clinical and public health settings.

5. TECHNICAL/SOFTWARE SUPPORT STAFF

Workers in this role support the technology deployed in clinical and public health settings. These individuals maintain systems in clinical and public health settings, including patching and upgrading of software. They also provide one-on-one support, in a traditional "help desk" model, to individual users with questions or problems.

6. TRAINER

Workers in this role design and deliver training programs, using adult learning principles, to employees in clinical and public health settings.

*This project is supported in whole or in part by ARRA HIT Grant # 90CC007901 awarded to the Midwest Consortium to train HIT Workers by the Federal HHS Office of the National Coordinator. St. Louis Community College is a member college of the Midwest Consortium. **Nondiscrimination statement:** St. Louis Community College is committed to non-discrimination in its admissions, education programs, activities and employment regardless of race, color, creed, religion, sex, sexual orientation, national origin, ancestry, age, disability, genetic information or status as a disabled or Vietnam-era veteran and shall take action necessary to ensure non-discrimination.*

