



## Mobilizing the HIT Workforce through Education and Training

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## Health Information Technology for Economic and Clinical Health Act (HITECH Act)

- Created as a Title of the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act (ARRA)
- The Act establishes provisions and grant programs for:
  - **Health Care workforce investments**
  - HIT Research Center
  - HIT Extension Program
  - *HIT Regional Extension Centers*



## ARRA Vision

- "Our recovery plan will invest in electronic health records and new technology that will reduce errors, bring down cost, ensure privacy, and save lives."

~President Obama,  
Address to Joint Session  
of Congress, February 24,  
2009



## HIT Strategy at CSS

- Projects:
  - ATHENS EHR Project
  - Academic Electronic Health Record Subscription Service
  - Personal Health Record Project
  - Rural Hospital EHR Optimization Project
  - Nursing Education, Practice, and Retention Project
  - HIIM and Nursing have nationally recognized undergraduate and graduate programs
  - Health Sciences and Nursing are nationally recognized for technologically enhanced learning environment
  - Center for Healthcare Innovation works with colleges and universities around the country to implement EHRs into the classroom
- Faculty involvement:
  - RHIOs, CCHIT, e-Health Advisory Committees, National Rural HIT Coalition



## The School of Health Sciences

### Workforce Preparation:

*The School of Health Sciences of The College of St. Scholastica will be widely recognized as a premier educator of health science professionals who are known for disciplinary excellence, multidisciplinary respect, cultural competence and thoughtful leadership.*

- Healthcare Informatics and Information Management
- Occupational Therapy,
- Physical Therapy,
- Social Work,
- Exercise Physiology,
- Athletic Training



## The School of Nursing

### Workforce Preparation:

- 2<sup>nd</sup> largest SON in Minnesota
- Approximately 550 students
- Programs of study:
  - Traditional BSN Undergraduate program
  - Post-baccalaureate nursing major
  - On-line RN to BS
  - Masters degree with preparation for FNP, ANP, GNP, Psyche NP and Adult CNS advanced practice roles
  - Doctor of Nursing Practice – post masters and post BSN



## Vision, Goals and Objectives of UP-HI

UP-HI's vision is to train university graduates in vital, highly-specialized HI roles.

The goals and objectives are to:

•Rapidly train both Type I and Type II students to serve in ONC-identified HI professional roles, requiring university-level training, including:

- Clinical/Public Health Leaders;
- Health Information Management (HIM) and Exchange Specialists;
- Health Information Privacy and Security Specialists;
- Research and Development Specialists (R&D);
- Programmers and Software Engineers; and
- Health Information Technology (HIT) Sub -Specialists.

• Enhance existing HI certificates and degrees with unique features including enhanced course content, enhanced course (online) delivery, enhanced program access, communication and asset management through a web portal, and enhanced training and mentoring through work context immersion and a virtual journal club.



## UP-HI Distribution of Programs

Role	Type I Certificate	Type I Degree	Type II Degree
Clinical/Public Health Leader	SON UMN CSS	IHI Institute for Health Informatics UMN	SPH School of Public Health UMN
Health Information Management & Exchange Specialist	CSS	IHI	CSS
Health Information Privacy & Security Specialist	UMC Crookston	IHI	IHI
R& D Specialists	SPH UMN	IHI	IHI
Programmers & Software Engineers	UMC	IHI	CS (Computer Science, UMN)
Health Information Technology Sub-Specialty		IHI	



### CSS Students Supported via HITECH Funds

- Nursing Informatics 12
- Information Exchange Certificate 60
- Master degree 5



### Nursing Informatics Certificate

- Database methods in healthcare
- Development of computer health information systems
- Medical vocabulary and classifications system
- Decision support systems
- Nursing informatics (two courses)
- Project management
- Technology applications in health care



### Health Information Management Exchange Specialist

- Database methods in health care
- Development of computer Health information systems
- Medical vocabulary and classifications systems
- Technical applications in health care IT ethics and security
- Health information security systems
- Methods of health information exchange
- Best practices , implementation strategies for EHR



### HIT Regional Extension Centers

- New national program to offer technical assistance and support to health care providers to adopt, implement, and meaningfully use electronic health records
  - To improve the quality and efficiency of care
  - For eligible providers, to qualify for Medicare and Medicaid incentive payments
- Managed by federal Office of the National Coordinator (ONC) for HIT



## REACH – Regional Extension and Assistance Center for HIT

- Key Health Alliance will serve as Regional Center for Minnesota and North Dakota, working closely with:
  - North Dakota Health Care Review, Inc. (NDHCRI)
  - University of ND, Center for Rural Health
- State-based Councils of critical stakeholders
  - In MN including strong e-health infrastructure - State Offices, University of Minnesota, others



## REACH goals

- 1) Assist healthcare providers with implementation and effective use of Health Information Technology (HIT), including EHR
- 2) Broad participation from industry, higher education and state government
- 3) Active dissemination of best practices and research to
  - improve healthcare quality, and
  - protect the privacy and security of health information



## REACH goals

- 4) Practical participation by providers in HIE to achieve meaningful use standards
- 5) Utilization of expertise that exists in Federal agencies
- 6) Integration of HIT, including EHRs, into the initial and ongoing training of health professionals



## REACH technical assistance

- Services offered will include:
  - Vendor selection and group purchasing
  - Implementation and project management
  - Practice and workflow redesign
  - Functional interoperability and HIE
  - Privacy and security of health data
  - Progress towards *meaningful use*
  - Local workforce support



## Creating Healthcare's Bridge to Quality

... must involve "health professions education"

***"All health professionals should be educated to deliver patient-centered care as members of an interdisciplinary team, emphasizing evidence-based practice, quality improvement approaches, and informatics."***

Source: Institute of Medicine. (2003). *Health professions: a bridge to quality*. Washington, DC: The National Academy Press. [www.iom.edu](http://www.iom.edu)



## Critical Challenges for Healthcare

Given looming workforce shortages, the quality and safety challenges and the pressure for cost containment, the US can not afford to educate

- more of the same health professionals
- to do the same work
- within the same model.

UP-HI hopes to educate professionals who will lead the transformation of healthcare!!



## Questions???

For more Information

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