

News Release

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE: July 29, 2015



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Bellevue College wins \$966k DHHS grant to improve healthcare IT education

Program will advance training in fast-growing, crucial sector

Bellevue, WASH - Bellevue College has been awarded a \$966,436 grant from the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, Office of the National Coordinator for Health IT to fund a new initiative to develop curriculum for use by Washington educators and those across the nation, and train 1,000 U.S. Department of Veteran's Affairs medical staff in health data analytics.

The effort will partner BC with Columbia, Johns Hopkins, Oregon Health and Science University, the University of Texas, the University of Alabama, and Normandale Community College as well as the Stanford University Open Learning Institute to expand the national health IT curriculum, e-learning resources and best practices.

"Healthcare IT is an often overlooked career pathway, although it is an extremely fast-growing and highly-paid sector," said Patricia Dombrowski, executive director of the Life Sciences Informatics Center and the grant's principal investigator. "The ultimate goal of this work is to speed information access to healthcare providers and consumers for better health care, better health and lower costs. We're honored to be part of this landmark project, and dedicated to ensuring Washington educators and learners benefit from our work."

Healthcare IT is a broad concept that encompasses an array of technologies to store, share and analyze health information. Healthcare providers and patients are increasingly using health IT to improve patient care. In addition to medical records, health IT can help people to better communicate with their doctors and learn and share information about their health.

"Ensuring that healthcare providers and consumers can fully benefit from advancing technologies is critical to ensuring excellent and informed care," said Leslie Heizer-Newquist, Ph.D., dean of BC's Health Science Education and Wellness Institute. "BC is excited to have an opportunity to contribute in this way to Healthcare IT education."

Bellevue College has more than a decade's experience developing and implementing health IT workforce training, having received more than \$20 million in federal funding to advance health IT workforce development. For more information on healthcare IT education at BC, please visit: <http://www.bellevuecollege.edu/hctm/>.

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About Bellevue College: With an annual average enrollment of over 33,000, Bellevue College is one of the largest educational institutions in Washington State. BC offers associate degree programs covering the first two years of a college education as well as four-year bachelor's degrees, certificates and continuing education programs in more than 90 professional and technical fields, such as information technology, telecommunications, business, education, health and public safety. Visit and learn more at <http://www.bellevuecollege.edu/>.