

Ramp up healthcare IT workforce professional capacity

Healthcare IT touches every facet of high-quality medical services, from electronic medical records, to patient safety and superior patient outcomes.

Ironically, hospitals and clinics in rural areas often offer high degrees of personalized healthcare delivery, but the competitive nature of the IT profession makes for a tough challenge in attracting and retaining qualified IT professionals. Few have time or resources for recruitment processes of the past.

Fortunately, training and development for the rural IT workforce is accessible through the Indiana Rural Health Information Technology Education Network (IRHITEN), which is available to clinical professionals, veterans, displaced workers, IT professionals and others.

Program Details

Through the Indiana Rural Health Association (IRHA), IRHITEN partners with HealthLINC and Ivy Tech Community College to offer IT training and apprenticeship and academic programs for the development of IT professionals to serve in rural hospitals, clinics and physician offices.

How does it work? IRHITEN maintains a sustainable, rural-focused education and training network that recruits and motivates students, delivers certified health IT education and training, facilities meaningful apprenticeships, and provides resources to successfully complete the HIT certification test.

20 Weeks of Training

Ivy Tech, an IRHITEN partner, offers a 20-week-long online certification training program to develop IT professionals (students must have access to reliable broadband Internet services) for those currently employed in the IT field, or those seeking advancement or employment in this health care field. The certificate program focuses on job-specific training for two workforce roles in the field of health informatics: Clinician/Practitioner Consultant and Workflow and Information Management Redesign Specialist. The Ivy



Tech training incorporates “hard” technical skills as well as “soft” skills such as problem solving, decision making, teamwork, time management and similar skills. The certification training incorporates how to engage Lean Principles project activities to maximize appropriate efficiencies that are available by improving processes through technology applications. This approach increases the likelihood of success for healthcare IT initiatives.

Landing Apprenticeships

HealthLINC HIE, an IRHITEN partner, oversees strategic skill-building apprenticeship programs that provide hands-on real-world IT healthcare experience. HealthLINC focuses on program projects that help rural healthcare providers to achieve “Meaningful Use” status of EHRs. This helps hospitals offer improved healthcare quality, safety and cost in a rural or small town hospital setting.

Students participating in the HealthLINC real world IT healthcare apprenticeships should expect to dedicate an



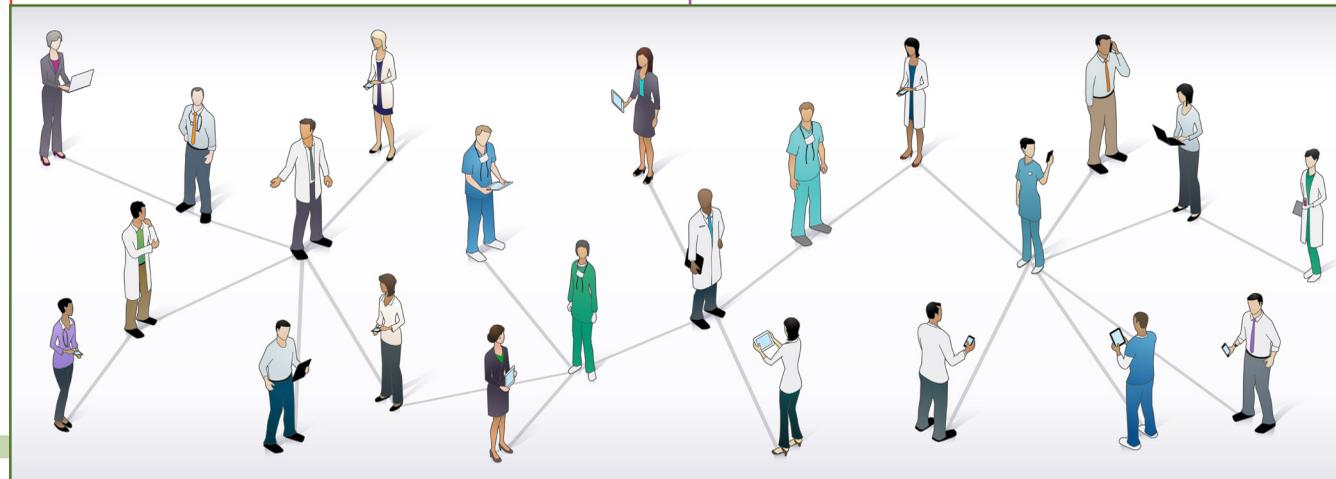
average of 10 hours per week (non-lecture) for the four-five week apprenticeship program practicum and project.

Achieving CHTS Certification

Upon completion of the 20-week certificate program, students will sit for the Commission on Certification for Health Informatics and Information management (CCHIM) CHTS exam to obtain their CHTS Certification for either a Clinician/Practitioner Consultant (CHTS-CP) or Practice Workflow and Information Management Redesign Specialist (CHTS-PW). The CHTS exams assess the competency of the health IT professional related to the implementation and management of electronic health information.

Job Placement

IRHITEN will provide resources for those who have completed the program and received certification in seeking and filling relevant IT healthcare job opportunities in Indiana rural areas.



Indiana Rural Health
Information Technology
Education Network