

Way to Go Pitt Community College!

Pitt Community College (PCC) in Greenville, NC, is a CAHIIM-accredited HIT program. Recently, program director Kay Gooding, MPH, MAEd, RHIA, submitted a proposal to lead the work of establishing new ARRA certificate programs. PCC has been named one of five institutions across the country to lead a regional consortium of community colleges to train thousands of new health IT professionals. The PCC-led consortium received a \$10.9 million grant from the US Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) for the first year. Additional funding is available for a second year after successful completion of a mid-project evaluation.

The grant provides assistance for PCC to set up the consortium of 21 community colleges, including Central Piedmont Community College and Catawba Valley Community College, across a 13-state region that stretches from the southeast to New Mexico and includes almost one-third of the nation's population. Each community college will create nondegree training programs designed to be completed in six months or less.

Training is expected to begin by September 30 in six health IT priority workforce roles, including:

Practice workflow and information management redesign specialists

Clinician/practitioner consultants

Implementation support specialists

Implementation managers

Technical/software support staff

Trainers