

PRESS RELEASE

College Drive • P.O. Box 2001 • Toms River, NJ 08754-2001
732.255.0400 x.2043 • www.ocean.edu



OCC OFFERS NEW HEALTH INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY PROGRAM

TOMS RIVER, NJ – The Health Information Technology field is growing rapidly, and now, Ocean County College can assist information technology (IT) and healthcare technicians and professionals through an exciting new **Health Information Technology Grant Program** that prepares individuals to support IT in public health settings.

Over the next five years, 51,000 qualified health IT workers will be needed to meet the needs of hospitals and physicians' offices as they adopt an electronic health care system, with competitive starting salaries.

The Health Information Technology (HIT) for Economic and Clinical Health Act of 2009 sets forth a plan for advancing the appropriate use of health information technology to improve quality of care for each individual in the United States. As part of this initiative, OCC received a two-year grant to train individuals and upgrade their skills to fill the employment gaps in this area, and will offer the program on their main campus in Toms River.

Both health care and information technology technicians and professionals are encouraged to apply to the program to ensure the rapid and effective utilization and development of health information technologies in the country's health care infrastructure. The project will advance the appropriate use of health information technology to improve quality of care for every individual, establish a foundation for the electronic exchange and use of health information, and realize widespread and secure use of health information technologies.

The training program includes intensive non-degree training courses that can be completed in six months or less, accommodates each trainee's skill gaps, and is flexibly designed to allow each trainee to enroll in just those courses he or she needs to attain the desired level of competency. Instruction in IT and healthcare areas is provided if necessary. Participants will receive a Health Information Technology Certificate upon successful completion of the coursework. (Tuition reimbursement is available for those who qualify.)

For additional information, or to apply, contact Project Coordinator John Knight in the OCC Department of Continuing and Professional Education's Healthcare Information Technology Grant Office, at **732.255.0511**, or visit **www.ocean.edu/HIT**.