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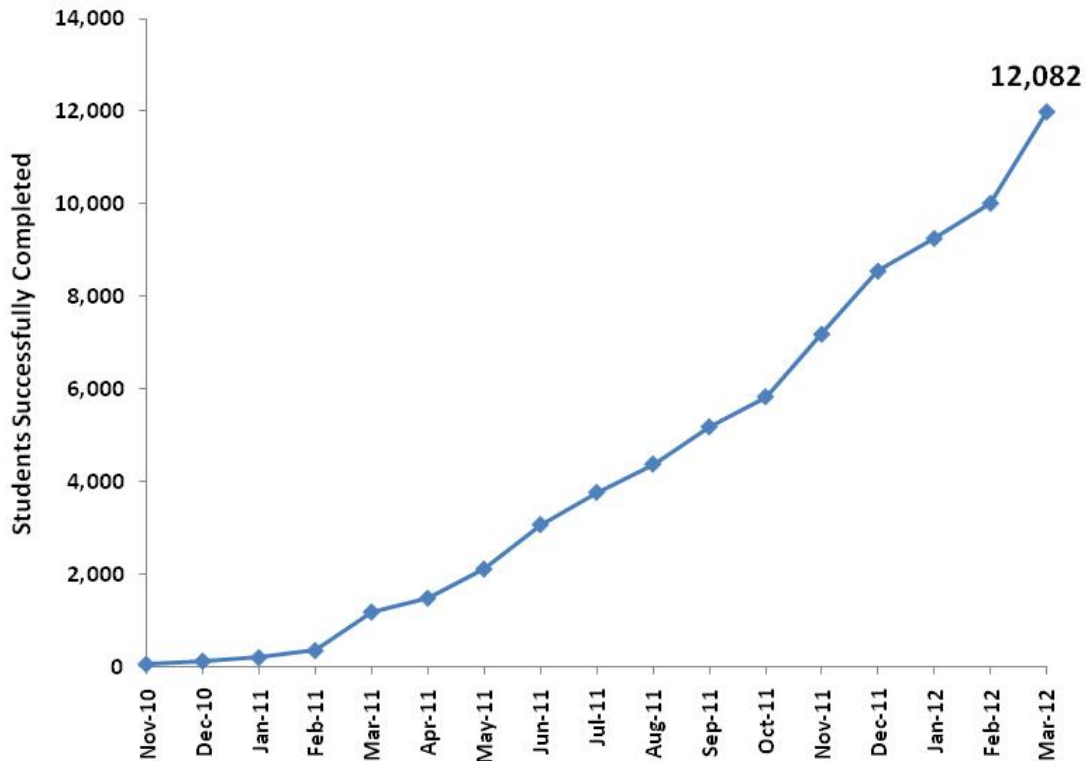
ONC's Community College Program Trains Over 12,000 Health IT Professionals

Matthew Swain, BBA; Danielle Vibbert, MPH; and Michael F. Furukawa, PhD

The Health Information Technology for Economic and Clinical Health (HITECH) Act of 2009 directed the Office of the National Coordinator for Health Information Technology (ONC) to train healthcare and information technology students to ensure the rapid and effective utilization and development of health information technology.¹ This brief describes trends in program attainment and student demographics for the Community College Consortia to Educate Health IT Professionals Program (“Community College Consortia”), a part of ONC’s Health IT Workforce Development Program.

The Community College Consortia Program has trained more than 12,000 health IT professionals since its inception.

Figure 1: Number of students who successfully completed the Community College Consortia Program: March 31, 2012

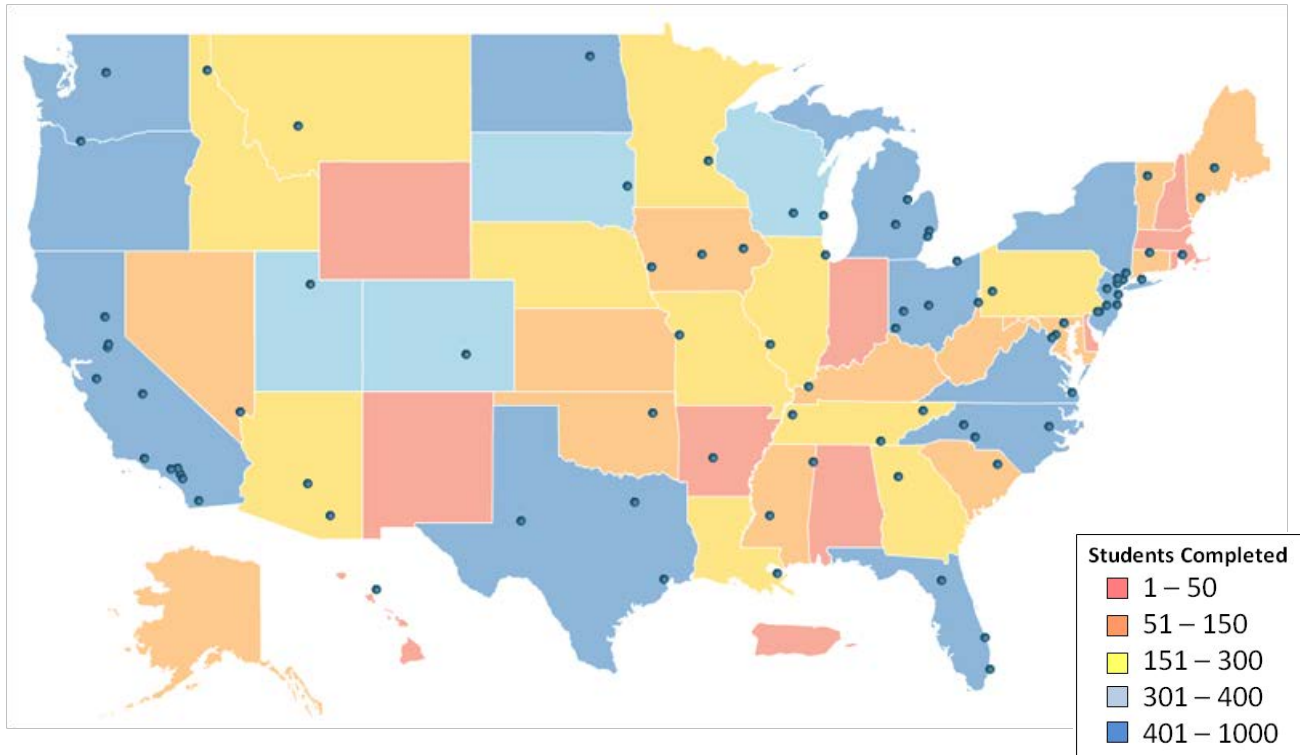


SOURCE: ONC analysis of Community College Consortia Program data

- The Community College Consortia Program has collectively trained an average of 900 students per month since April 2011 (Figure 1).

The Community College Consortia Program has trained students in all 50 states.

Figure 2: Number of students who successfully completed the Community College Consortia Program by state: March 31, 2012

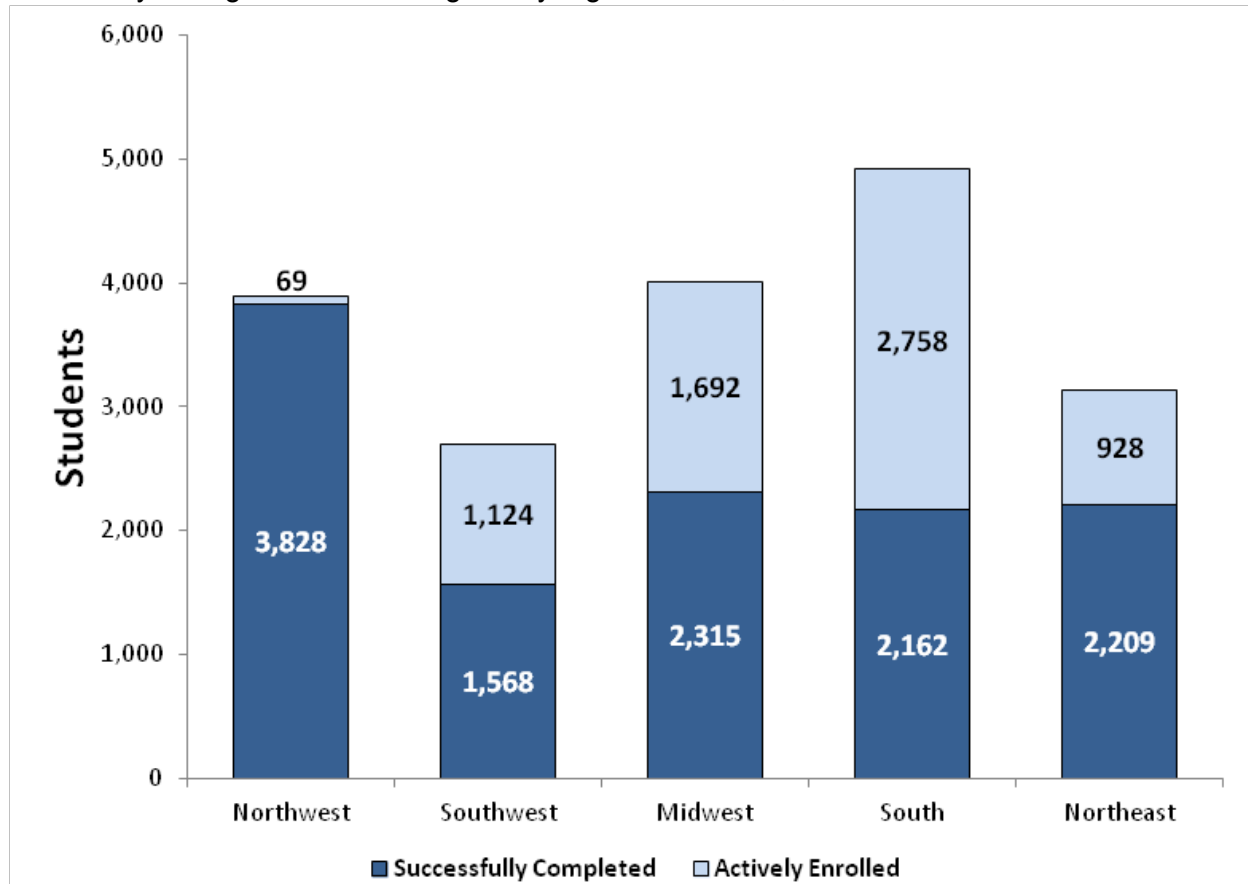


NOTES: Each point on the map represents a participating community college.
For an interactive view, please visit <http://dashboard.healthit.gov/college/>.
SOURCE: ONC analysis of Community College Consortia Program data

- Twelve states have more than 400 students successfully completing the program (Figure 2).

Each of the Community College Consortia regions has trained over 1,500 students.

Figure 3: Number of students who successfully completed and are actively enrolled in the Community College Consortia Program by region: March 31, 2012

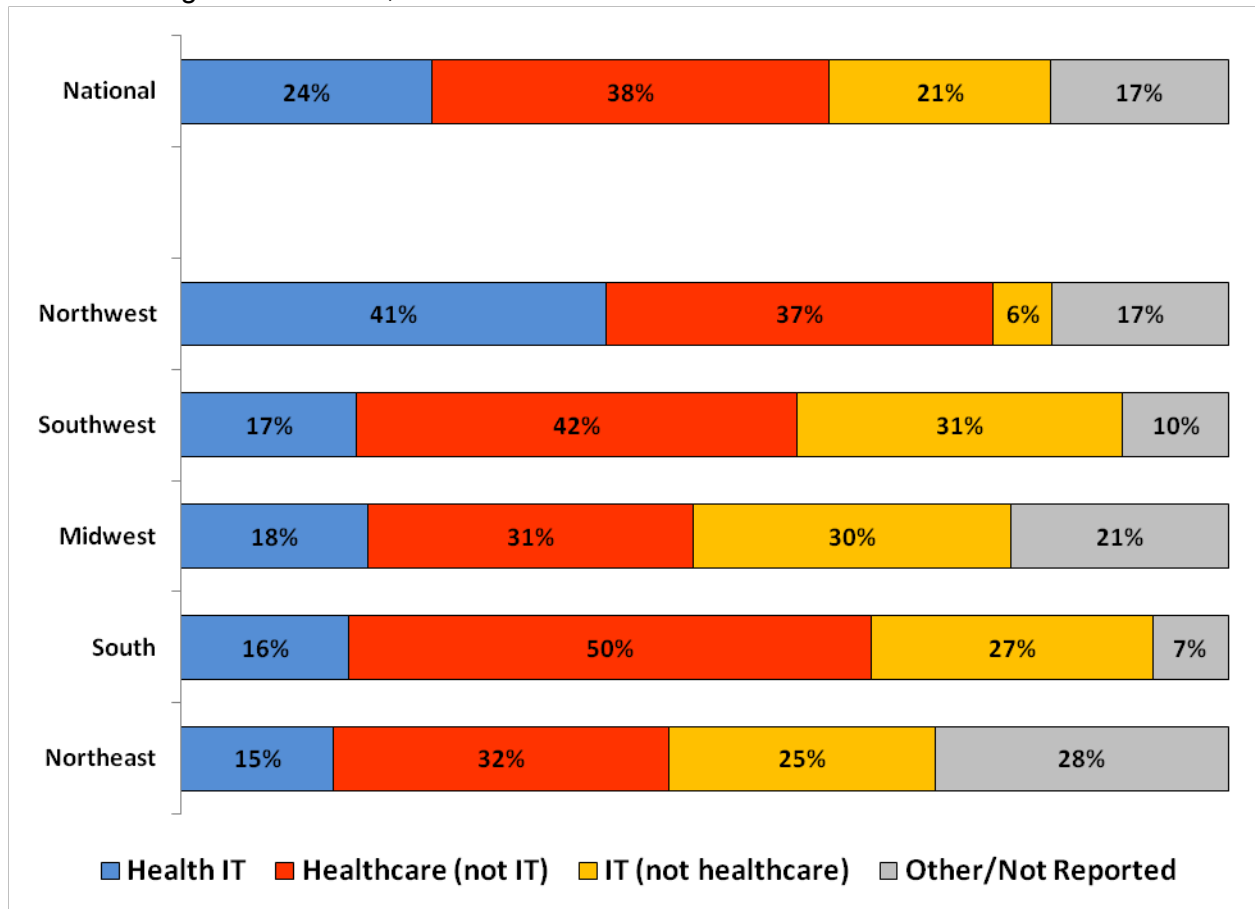


SOURCE: ONC analysis of Community College Consortia Program data

- There are over 6,500 students actively enrolled in the Community College Consortia Program (Figure 3).
- The region with highest number of student completions is the Northwest region, led by Bellevue Community College, which trained 3,828 students.

The majority of Community College Consortia students have prior experience in fields outside of Health IT.

Figure 4: Prior experience of students who successfully completed the Community College Consortia Program: March 31, 2012



SOURCE: ONC analysis of Community College Consortia Program data

- More students had prior experience in Healthcare (38%) and Information Technology (21%), relative to those with experience in Health IT (24%) (Figure 4).

Community College Consortia Program students have varied and diverse characteristics.

Table 1: Demographic characteristics for students who successfully completed the Community College Consortia Program: March 31, 2012

Consortium	Rural	Minority Status	Student Age		
			Mean	Min	Max
Northwest	30.6%	14.9%	42.2	18	79
Southwest	10.1%	42.1%	46.1	19	78
Midwest	6.4%	30.2%	46.2	20	74
South	12.5%	38.4%	46.1	20	76
Northeast	4.9%	27.2%	47.0	19	78
National	15.3%	27.8%	45.1	18	79

SOURCE: ONC analysis of Community College Consortia Program data

- The average age of students completing the program was 45 years old (Table 1).
- 15% of students successfully completing the program reside in rural areas.
- More than one in four students (28%) was non-Caucasian.

Summary

The HITECH Act has spurred significant investment in the adoption and meaningful use of EHR systems.² Greater EHR adoption is projected to increase the demand for skilled professionals to implement, support, and use health IT. The estimated shortage in the health IT workforce has ranged from 37,700 to 41,000.^{3,4} Since HITECH's passage in 2009, the number of online postings for health IT jobs has tripled.⁵

To address increased demand for health IT workers, ONC invested \$116 million in the Health IT Workforce Development Program, which consists of four initiatives: Community College Consortia to Educate Health IT Professionals, Curriculum Development Centers Program, Competency Exam Program, and Program for Assistance for University-Based Training.⁶

Under the Community College Consortia Program, ONC committed \$68 million to five regional groups to develop or improve non-degree health IT training programs that can be completed in six months or less. The five regions collectively supported 82 community colleges nationwide (Appendix Table 1), offering in-person and distance learning programs with a goal of training 10,500 students by 2012. ONC designed this intensive training program for professionals with healthcare or IT experience. Students are trained in one or more of the following roles: practice workflow and information management redesign specialists; clinician/practitioner consultants; implementation support specialists; implementation managers; technical/software support; and trainers.⁶

Since its launch in September 2010, the Community College Consortia Program has rapidly trained more than 12,000 professionals nationwide. The majority of students are mid-career healthcare or IT professionals with prior experience in fields outside health IT. Student demographics included significant minority and rural representation. By leveraging distance learning platforms, the program has trained students in all 50 States, the District of Columbia, and Puerto Rico.

Data Source

Each consortium is required to report student data on monthly basis to ONC. Data reported includes: enrollment status; training start date; training end date; zip code of student's address; date of birth, minority status; prior experience. ONC merges the zip codes with the Area Resource File to designate whether the student resides in a rural location.

Definitions

Successfully completed: Enrollment status for students that completed all program requirements.

Actively enrolled: Enrollment status for students actively participating in the program. Excludes students who have withdrawn or on leave.

Rural location: Designates whether the student lives in a rural location based on the zip code of the student's address. Rural designations were based on the U.S. Census Bureau definition that includes micropolitan and non-CBSA (Core-Based Statistical Area).

Minority status: Self-reported information on whether students are Caucasian or non-Caucasian.

Prior experience: Self-reported information on whether students had experience prior to enrolling in the program in: Health IT; Healthcare, not IT-related; IT, not healthcare-related; or Other/not reported.

References

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5. Furukawa MF, Vibbert D, Swain M. HITECH and Health IT Jobs: Evidence from Online Job Postings. *ONC Data Brief, no. 2*. Washington, DC: Office of the National Coordinator for Health Information Technology, May 2012.
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About the Authors

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Appendix Table 1: Participants in the Community College Consortia Program

Region	School Name	City	State
Region A: Northwest	Bellevue College (Lead)	Bellevue	WA
	Dakota State University	Madison	SD
	Lake Region State College	Devil's Lake	ND
	Montana Tech	Butte	MT
	North Idaho College	Coeur d'Alene	ID
	Portland Community College	Portland	WA
	Pueblo Community College	Pueblo	CO
	Salt Lake Community College	Salt Lake City	UT
Region B: Southwest	Butte College	Oroville	CA
	College of Southern Nevada	Las Vegas	NV
	Cosumnes River College	Sacramento	CA
	Cypress College	Cypress	CA
	East Los Angeles College	Monterey Park	CA
	Los Rios Community College District (Lead)	Sacramento	CA
	Fresno City College	Fresno	CA
	Maricopa College	Phoenix	AZ
	Mission College	Santa Clara	CA
	Orange Coast College	Costa Mesa	CA
	Pima College	Tucson	AZ
	San Diego Mesa College	San Diego	CA
	Santa Barbara City College	Santa Barbara	CA
	Santa Monica Community College	Santa Monica	CA
University of Hawaii College - Kapiolani	Honolulu	HI	
Region C: Midwest	Cincinnati State Technical and Community College	Cincinnati	OH
	Columbus State Community College	Columbus	OH
	Cuyahoga Community College (Lead)	Cleveland	OH
	Delta College	University Center	MI
	Des Moines Area Community College	Ankeny	IA
	Johnson County Community College	Overland Park	KS
	Kirkwood Community College	Cedar Rapids	IA
	Lansing Community College	Lansing	MI
	Macomb Community College	Warren	MI
	Madison Area Technical College	Madison	WI
	Metropolitan Community College	Omaha	NE
	Milwaukee Area Technical College	Milwaukee	WI
	Moraine Valley Community College	Palos Hills	IL
	Normandale Community College	Bloomington	MN
	Sinclair Community College	Dayton	OH
	St. Louis Community College	St. Louis	MO
Wayne County Community College District	Detroit	MI	



Region	School Name	City	State
Region D: South	Atlanta Technical College	Atlanta	GA
	Broward College	Coconut Creek	FL
	Catawba Valley Community College	Hickory	NC
	Central Piedmont Community College	Charlotte	NC
	Chattanooga State Community College	Chattanooga	TN
	Dallas County Community College District	Dallas	TX
	Delgado Community College	New Orleans	LA
	Dyersburg State Community College	Dyersburg	TN
	Florence-Darlington Technical College	Florence	SC
	Hinds Community College	Raymond	MS
	Houston Community College	Houston	TX
	Indian River State College	Ft. Pierce	FL
	Itawamba Community College	Tupelo	MS
	Jefferson Community & Technical College	Louisville	KY
	Midland College	Midland	TX
	National Park Community College	Hot Springs	AR
	Pitt Community College (Lead)	Winterville	NC
	Santa Fe College	Gainesville	FL
	Tulsa Community College	Tulsa	OK
	Walters State Community College	Morristown	TN
Region E: Northeast	Bristol Community College	Fall River	MA
	Bronx Community College	Bronx	NY
	Brookdale Community College	Lincroft	NJ
	Burlington Community College	Pemberton	NJ
	Camden County College	Blackwood	NJ
	Capital Community College	Hartford	CT
	Community College of Allegheny County	Pittsburgh	PA
	Community College of Baltimore County	Baltimore City	MD
	Community College of the District of Columbia	Washington	DC
	Community College of Vermont	Waterbury	VT
	Essex County College	Newark	NJ
	Gloucester County College	Sewall	NJ
	Kennebec Valley Community College	Fairfield	ME
	Northern Virginia Community College	Annandale	VA
	Ocean County College	Toms River	NJ
	Passaic County Community College	Paterson	NJ
	Raritan Valley Community College	Branchburg	NJ
	Southern Maine Community College	South Portland	ME
	Suffolk County Community College	Brentwood	NY
	Tidewater Community College (Lead)	Virginia Beach	VA
West Virginia Northern Community College	Wheeling	WV	
Westchester Community College	Valhalla	NY	

NOTES: Consortium lead designated in parentheses.