

Inland Empire/Desert Regional Consortium  
Announcement of Intent to Develop a New CTE Program  
(Formerly known as 1st Read)

**Overview/Instructions**

- Step 1:** Submit Desert Region Labor Market Information (LMI) Request to the region's Center of Excellence (COE). Allow 1-2 weeks for a report to be prepared.
- ✓ COE: The LMI report will be returned to the requesting college with a copy to the regional chair (RC).
  - ✓ RC or COE: The RC or COE will provide regional program inventory and program award data from the CCCCO or CTE Launchboard and will send it to the requesting college. The RC will retain both the LMI (demand) and program inventory and award (supply) data for review by the CTE Deans during the Announcement of Intent.
  - ✓ Colleges may include additional data to complement the data provided by the COE and/or RC.

The COE are regional experts in LMI research. Providing LMI services to regional colleges seeking program approval alleviates the need for colleges to gather this data on their own. It will ensure the reliability and consistency of data being reviewed by both the regional CTE Deans and the Chancellor's Office.

- Step 2:** Prepare a narrative (next page) to submit with the Announcement of Intent. Responses should be brief. The Announcement of Intent is an informal step in the program approval process. Colleges will be required to expand on this brief narrative in the formal program approval submission narrative, which will be included in the program approval application to the Chancellor's Office. The form provided for the narrative is password protected so that it can be filled in. It can be unlocked using the password **DRC**.

- Step 3:** Request the Announcement of Intent be placed on the next CTE Deans agenda at least five days before their meeting by sending an e-mail (with the narrative attached) to the IE/DRC chair ([Julie.Pehkonen@rcc.edu](mailto:Julie.Pehkonen@rcc.edu)). For a list of meeting dates, go to [www.desertcolleges.org](http://www.desertcolleges.org).

**Title 5 §55130(b)**

(8) The need for the proposed program ascertained with regard to at least the following factors:

- (A) Other community colleges in the area currently offering the program;
- (B) Other programs closely related to the proposed program offered by the college;
- (C) Relation of the proposed program to job market analysis, where applicable;
- (D) Enrollment projection for the proposed program;
- (E) Recommendations of career technical education regional consortia, when applicable; and
- (F) The classification of the courses in the program in accordance with section 55001.

The process that the IE/DRC has adopted for member colleges seeking formal regional endorsement of new programs (as part of the Chancellor's Office program approval process) can be found at [www.desertcolleges.org](http://www.desertcolleges.org) or contact the IE/DRC chair, [Julie.Pehkonen@rcc.edu](mailto:Julie.Pehkonen@rcc.edu). Programs seeking regional endorsement must bring their final program proposal to the regional consortium for official vote.

# Announcement of Intent to Develop a New CTE Program

## Submission Narrative

College: Moreno Valley College

Date: 5/19/2016

Program Title (may be a working title): Health Information Technology (HIT)

Proposed TOPS: 1223.00/1223.10

Award Type (check all that apply):

**Certificate:**  12-17 units  18+ units

**Degree:**  AS  AA

1. Overview of program being proposed.

Moreno Valley College proposes the approval of a Health Information Technology (HIT) Program with two options:

1. Certificate of Completion in coding and/or medical/insurance billing
2. Associate of Science degree

The HIT profession is a career option that is quickly growing and is needed in the health care industry. Health information professionals care for patients by protecting their medical data. With the number of ransomware attacks experienced by health care organizations, Health Information Technology is an important and in-demand career option.

The Certificates of Completion (COC) will be designed as an entry –level option for high school graduates, individuals seeking a career change, and currently employed individuals who are working in the industry but need additional training to promote or increase their income potential. The COC will provide program students with the knowledge, skills and behaviors to seek employment or maintain employment in the HIT sector.

The Associate of Science degree will be designed with the intent of each graduate being academically prepared to take the American Health Information Management Association (AHIMA) certification exam, which upon passing will result in the designation as a Registered Health Information Technologist and increased employability. In addition, articulation pathways will be developed to allow transfer to a four-year university to earn a Bachelor of Science in Health Information Technology or Health Informatics.

2. Advisory Committee Recommendations. Describe the college relationship with local employers and attach advisory committee minutes that documents their recommendation(s) for the program being proposed:  
The Riverside Regional Health Professions Nexus group met on August 17, 2016 and had previously agreed to act as our Allied Health Advisory Committee. The need for a Health Information Technology Program was placed on the agenda and discussed. By a vote of 20 – 0 it was recommended that Moreno Valley College move forward with the development of this program. Participants in the Nexus group include local high schools and colleges, and local medical providers and employers including AMR, Riverside University Healthcare Systems, Riverside Medical Center, and others. Minutes from the meeting are attached.
3. LMI: Brief narrative describing the need for the program. The narrative should respond to the LMI data provided by the COE and any additional LMI data you have collected. Be sure to include additional data you have collected.

### **Riverside County Work and Education Historical Background**

The Inland Empire (San Bernardino and Riverside Counties) is expected to have a 5% population growth rate. The growth rate in the Inland Empire (IE) surpasses the state and national growth projections. In 2015, the IE had 4.5 million residents and it is projected to have 4.7 million residents by 2020.

The average education for individuals 25 years and older is “some college or higher.” However, when you look at the specific categories of educational attainment in the IE the distribution is: 7% attained a graduate or professional degree, 13% attained a bachelor’s degree and 8.4% attained an associate’s degree for a combined total of 21.4%. According to the data portal, California residents in the same age attained the following education levels; 11.8% attained a graduate or professional degree, 20% attained a

bachelor's degree and 7.8% attained an associate's degree for a combined total of 39.6%. This indicates that almost twice the number of California residents attained a higher level of education than IE residents. The literature states that there is a direct correlation between education and income earning potential. In order to increase the income in a community, the residents must gain a highly demanded skill or advance their education.

**California's** population is 38,431,393, and has a poverty rate of 16.80%, which is the **16<sup>th</sup> highest** poverty rate in the country. According to the Living Wage Calculator, the living wage for one adult in the IE is \$11.59 for an annual income of just \$24,000. Approximately 80% of the households earn \$25,000 per year (which is just above the Federal poverty threshold of \$24,000 per year for a family of four). The Labor Market Information Report (2016), states that the IE's median household income is \$55,362, however, approximately 30% of the households are at or below poverty.

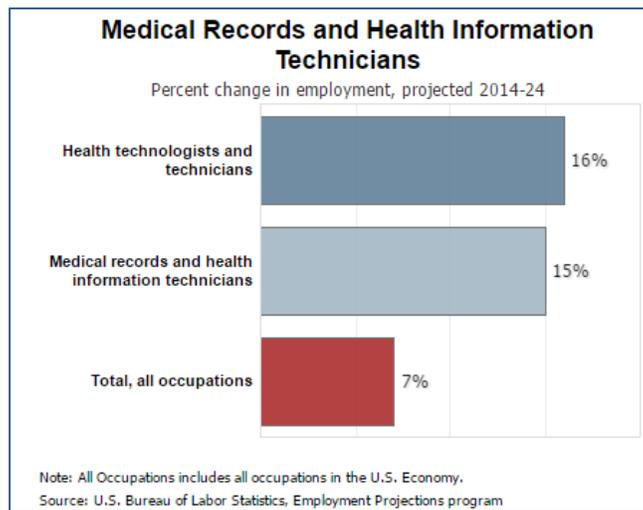
The IE is considered to be economically and educationally disadvantaged. In order to bridge this gap, it is necessary to provide individuals with an opportunity to acquire an education in an area that can provide a livable wage, while fostering continued learning. The LMI report clearly indicates that the health sector continues to have growth while providing excellent earning potential. Employment in Hospitals (5% growth; wages per worker, \$93,794), General Medical and Surgical (17% growth; wages per worker, \$81,962), and Physician Offices (growth 5%; wages per worker, \$95,653), represent 27% of largest industries in the IE with an average wage per earner of \$90,469. The fastest growing industries in the IE are: General Medical (17%) and Physician Offices (18%). The medical industry accounts for 35% of the fastest growing industry. A Health Information Technician (HIT) Degree or Certificate would provide the Moreno Valley College community with access into one of the fastest growing industries through two years or less of educational preparation. Lastly, a career in the HIT can lead to jobs that provide an annual income ranging from \$42,307 to \$105,560. This income level will positively impact the individual, their family and the community.

### **Health Information Technician Employment Information**

The demand for Health Information Technicians (HIT) is projected to grow over 15 percent from 2014 to 2024, which is much faster than the average for all occupations. The demand for health services is expected to increase as the population ages.

<http://www.bls.gov/ooh/healthcare/medical-records-and-health-information-technicians.htm>

The demand for HIT professionals is expected to be high as the health sector continues to expand. The widespread use of Electronic Health Records (EHR) and the additional medical data required to provide healthcare to an aging population will require an increase in the number of HIT professionals to manage and organize health information data. Employment prospects will be best for those with a certification in health information, such as the Registered Health Information Technician (RHIT) or Registered Health Information Administrator (RHIA). Demand is expected to increase at all levels of education and credentialing. According to the American Health Information Management Association (AHIMA), there are approximately 12,000 to 50,000 new jobs anticipated by 2017, and the Bureau of Labor Statistics cites medical records and health information technicians as one of the 20 fastest growing occupations in the US. (AHIMA, *Health Information 101*, on the Internet at <http://www.ahima.org/careers/healthinfo>)



Bureau of Labor Statistics, U.S. Department of Labor, *Occupational Outlook Handbook, 2016-17 Edition*, Medical Records and Health Information Technicians, on the Internet at <http://www.bls.gov/ooh/healthcare/medical-records-and-health-information-technicians.htm> (visited June 9, 2016).

The demand for health information professionals in industries such as academic institutions, consulting agencies, government agencies, and healthcare software companies will increase over the next several years. As health information technology becomes more prevalent, HIT professions will continue to be vital members of the electronic health record team. According to the US Department of Labor, HIT will grow to include new areas of support such as mobile support adoption positions, public health informatics, implementation support specialists, and information management redesign specialists. (AHIMA, *Health Information 101*, on the Internet at <http://www.ahima.org/careers/healthinfo>)

### **Labor Market Information**

Health Information Technology supports the Health, Human, and Public Service (HHPS) department goals to identify and develop high-demand, high-technology curriculum with strong, high-wage income projections in the local region as documented by local Employment Development Department, Centers of Excellence, and Bureau of Labor Statistics data.

The department expects the demand for HIT professionals to increase due to local and national employment needs for medical data organization and management. According to the Centers of Excellence, services for the elderly and persons with disabilities has a 38% projected growth by 2020. This increase in services will mandate that there are competently educated/trained individuals to manage this data which will require an increase in HIT professionals. Local area labor market data supports the need for current Health Information Technology programs in the Riverside-San Bernardino Area.

The top industries that employ HIT occupations include offices of physicians (except mental health specialists), general medical and surgical hospitals and offices of dentists. Overall, the inclusion the HIT into the college's course offerings provides an excellent opportunity for the students to increase their education while providing a potential pathway to higher paying professions and advanced degrees.

4. Describe the impact (positive and/or negative) this new program will have on other regional programs? Is there a plan for coordination with other regional community college programs, secondary schools and/or transfer institutions to develop pathways and the CTE pipeline?

Health Information Technology is not offered at any of the colleges in Region 9, therefore, there would be no negative impact on any of the colleges' existing programs. The program could have a

positive impact on those colleges with allied health programs as HIT could potentially be an additional pathway for continuing education and career advancement.

Moreno Valley College currently has strong relationships with the secondary schools in our service area. We have a number of articulation agreements in place that would support the HIT program including Medical Terminology 1A and Anatomy and Physiology 10. The HIT program would provide an additional career pathway for schools with health academies and articulation agreements for these courses in place. In the future, we will explore the formation of partnerships with Loma Linda University and other universities with the Health Information degree option to provide our students with a seamless pathway for obtaining a bachelor’s and/or master’s degree in Health Information Administration or Health Informatics.

	Certificate			Degree
	Locally Approved*	Less than 18	18+ Units	
Barstow	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Chaffey	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
College of the Desert	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Copper Mountain	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Crafton Hills	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Moreno Valley	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

	Certificate			Degree
	Locally Approved*	Less than 18	18+ Units	
Mt. San Jacinto	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Norco	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Palo Verde	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Riverside City	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
San Bernardino Valley	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Victor Valley	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

\*Locally approved certificates would not be included on the Chancellor’s Office inventory. The CTE Deans will contribute this information when the program is being announced.

Secondary District/High School	Comments (list pathway name if known)
Visa Del Lago	Health Academy and Health Technician Program
Canyon Springs	Health Academy
Valley View	Allied Health Academy
Rancho Verde	Career Technical Education

Transfer Institution	Comments (list program name if known)
Loma Linda University	Health Information Administration and Health Informatics
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5. Other information the college wishes to share.

The HHPS department and the College are committed to providing high-quality programs that meet the needs of the community. The addition of the HIT program would provide a vehicle for the individuals in the community to acquire the knowledge, skills and behaviors that are consistent with economic empowerment and personal development. These are the foundational attributes that are necessary for individuals from disadvantaged backgrounds to acquire success and advance personally and professionally.