Lasting Fine arts program earns new honor

Convenient business degree options

Degrees and certificates

Normandale students Heather Heathcote Luben (left) and Kelly Meyer are advancing their careers in the college’s new Oral Health Practitioner program.
Over the last four decades, Normandale has developed a reputation as a provider of innovative, affordable, high-quality learning for Minnesota individuals and businesses. A quick look at two new programs and some long-standing offerings reveal that the college hasn’t strayed from that mission.

By Vicki Stavig

Starting from a relatively humble beginning when Normandale opened its doors in 1968, the college has built an impressive record of success. Not only is it a top-rated educational institution, it also has a 43-year tradition as a provider of innovative, dynamic learning programs for area individuals and businesses. As with any successful institution, the key has been to identify workplace and student needs and then develop innovative programs to meet them.

With that in mind, let’s take a look at some unique Normandale programs and offerings helping companies and students compete in today’s constantly churning and changing global economy.

HEALTH INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY

One of the key legacies of the 2009 federal HITECH (Healthcare Information Technology) Act was the mandate that every U.S. citizen have an electronic medical record by 2014. That quickly created a need for an estimated 50,000 new healthcare information technology professionals. In response, Normandale developed two programs: an A.A.S. degree in Healthcare Informatics, and a six-month, online Health Information Technology (MnHIT) program.

Normandale is the only college in Minnesota—and only the second in the country—to offer an A.A.S. in Healthcare Informatics, which combines information technology with an understanding of the healthcare industry and its culture. “It’s unique—not only will these specialists develop, run, configure, and maintain healthcare information systems, they will also help to reduce human error” says Moni Islam, coordinator of the college’s Healthcare Informatics program. “Statistics show that at least 44,000—and as many as 98,000—people die in hospitals in the United States every year due to human error.”

Armed with an $800,000 grant from the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, Normandale developed and now offers a Health Information Technology program. That program, offered through the college’s Continuing Education & Customized Training Department, uses curriculum developed by five leading universities—including Johns Hopkins, Duke, and Columbia. Normandale also created a leadership council made up of 32 representatives from the Minnesota healthcare industry to help customize its program to meet the specific needs of that industry.

“This program is for people who have either healthcare or IT backgrounds and industry experience,” Islam says. “The average age of these students is 49, and they have an average of 17 years of experience in the industry. We are training for four different roles: practice workflow and information management redesign specialists, clinician/practitioner consultants, implementation support specialists, and electronic health record trainers.”

Find Out More
For more information, contact Moni Islam at 952-358-8853, go to: www.normandale.edu/continuingeducation/healthcare-and-wellness/HealthIT_Training.cfm or use the QR code above.