MnHIT STUDENTS’ TESTIMONIALS

I was in process of getting laid off when I came across this program at Normandale Community College. After the layoff, I spent five months unemployed, looking for a job, doing the MN Health IT coursework and watching my kids at home. I was able to gain a contracting job towards the end of the program, and six months later I was hired on full time with UnitedHealth Group, whom I was contracting/consulting at. I believe the MN Health IT program exposed me to areas of health IT that I was not aware of or familiar with. This in turn gave me areas to do some self-study in, such as teaching myself how to write SQL queries (which was my first project when I became a contractor). It also helped me stay fresh on healthcare and related HIT terminology, concepts and technology so that I was better prepared for interviews. The online learning format helped me obtain this knowledge on my own schedule and pace.

Darin Coleman
UAT Lead
OptumInsight

Thought I would let the school know I took the exam today for the Clinician/Practitioner Consultant and passed! It was a great day for me. I felt so good about it. I took the [MN Health IT] program anticipating that I might be assigned a significant role in our EMR conversion this past year. My being a nurse for 30 years, I have had no prior formal HIT training. As it turned out, I was assigned the Project Leader for our entire hospital project of converting from Meditech to Epic. The HIT program added credibility and confidence as I led this huge project in rural MN (Alexandria). I want to extend a grateful thank you for the opportunity Normandale provided to me and my employer with this training.

Sincerely,
Barb Friederichs RN, Senior Clinical Director
Epic Project Leader
Douglas County Hospital

In my opinion, the [MN Health IT] program provided a rigorous and thorough learning experience. This program provides excellent instruction and experience in workflow analysis, program design and management as well as demonstrating the value of the electronic medical
record. I have been in health care as a provider and administrator for over 25 years. I will use the knowledge I gained from this program in my regular duties as well as a means of improving my personal career opportunities and performance.

Bob Finke
Community Relations
Northfield Hospital

In 2010, I was in a career transition looking to take my Information Technology skills and knowledge in another direction and incorporate them into the growing field of Health Information Technology (HIT) and make a positive impact on the health care system and patient care. I am a 2011 MnHIT Graduate and met the VP of my current employer at one of the student/employer gatherings. I am a HIT Implementation & Support Specialist at Mighty Oak Technology, Inc. I am responsible for: Installing, Configuring, and Training Proprietary EHR Software. I also serve as the Meaningful Use Consultant assisting health care professionals understand Meaningful Use under the Eligible Provider (EP) Medicare Program as well as aid them in meeting their Meaningful Use measures with the reporting solutions tools built into our fully certified EHR software and walking them through the attestation process on the CMS website. In addition, I provide technical support, input for quality/process improvement and future software enhancements. The workplace skills, core, and work role specific training along with the CareerHITracc program provided me with the skills, confidence and network I needed to get a job and thrive in the HIT field.

Stefanie Klein
HIT Specialist/Trainer/ Meaningful Use Analyst
Mighty Oak Technology, Inc.

"Normandale's MNHIT Training Program offers students more than the background they need to transition into a healthcare IT career. The exceptionally knowledgeable and committed staff take groups of diverse students, and help them to harness and extend their talents. We (as students) are encouraged to apply our background, passion, and perspective to the program, bringing a rich variety of viewpoints and a sense of community to each cohort. MNHIT empowers us to be the vehicles for change in healthcare - not just the passengers. Whether we come from an IT or health background, we are given a chance to see the driving forces behind healthcare changes in America, both past and present, and the tools we need to track (and effect) future changes.

Michael Bayliss
IT Coordinator
Crest View Corp