

CSSI Fact Sheet

9/30/08

Youth Expos-The Springfield Urban League hosted three successful Health Career Expos in April and May of 2007. A total of 203 teenagers attended expos in Decatur, Jacksonville and Springfield. They talked with exhibitors, listened to speakers talk about health careers and financial aid, and won fabulous prizes. The evaluations showed that more than 85% felt they increased their knowledge about health careers. Exhibitors included area post-secondary schools with health careers programs, hospitals and long term care facilities, LWA staff.

Youth Scholarships-Awarded \$18,000 in scholarships to four students who are enrolled in registered nursing programs.

Registered Nursing Students—CSSI provided financial support to 83 Registered Nursing Students.

Master of Nursing Scholarships-The CSSI provided scholarships to eight Registered Nurses pursuing their Master's degree in Nursing, with the requirement that they teach in a school of nursing upon graduation. Six have graduated and are currently teaching in area schools. The individual WIBs will continue to fund the remaining two through academic year 2008-2009.

Tutoring for Nursing Students—Provided funding for tutoring for 37 nursing students at LincolnLand College in academic year 2006-2007.

Clinical Sites Committee—Representatives from major health care employers and all the schools of nursing participated. They adopted a standardized clinical affiliation agreement, developed by Metro Chicago Healthcare Council. Five area employers and four area schools have adopted the agreement.

Medical Coders—Facilitated and sponsored two six-week review classes and one weekend review class for coders to help them prepare for their certification exam. Twenty-three coders participated; 15 have passed their exam and become certified, four will retake it shortly, four will not retake it.

Medical Coding Students—Provided tuition, exam fees and books support for 27 coding students.

Clinical Lab Scientists—The CSSI provided support for 3 CLS students.

Medical Lab Technician Program—Facilitated partner agreement between Richland and Kankakee Community Colleges to offer an MLT program.

Forum for Career Specialists-April 20, 2006, the CSSI hosted a forum for 27 WIA career specialists in our 12-county area. Speakers from 18 different educational programs that prepare students for our shortage-designated careers presented information about their programs.

Hospital Survey-In April of 2007, surveyed 14 hospitals in the region. Seven of the 14 responded.

Nurses-Everyone said they still have a nursing shortage, though it hasn't changed much in recent years.

Coders-generally hospitals want certified and experienced coders. They all thought we should continue to help them get certified. Some hire beginners.

Medical Lab Technicians-smaller hospitals hire them, but they did not feel they have a shortage right now.

Clinical Lab Scientists-Memorial has openings, but others said they don't right now. Most said they prefer to hire four-year rather than two-year prepared lab staff.

When asked what other shortages exist, most said Physical Therapists as well as Occupational Therapists and Pharmacists.

Consortium—Built consortium and hosted biennial meetings throughout the project. Ad hoc committees included: Career Awareness, Incumbent Workers, Post-Secondary Education, Coding, Clinical Sites.

Materials

CSSI Brochure and Banners—Created brochure describing the program and including the schools in the region that offer programs for the targeted careers and banners to use at special events to promote the program. Created banners to use at exhibits, conferences, and speaking engagements.

Status Report—Developed and distributed status report for the first two years of the project.

E-newsletter—developed newsletter and distributed by email in December 2007, July 2008.

Financial Support Document—Created a document of tuition reimbursement and scholarship opportunities provided by health care employers in the region for WIA career counselors to use in working with clients.