

HHS Sec. Sebelius highlights Northeast Ohio's leadership in electronic medical records adoption



U.S. Health and Human Services Secretary
Kathleen Sebelius

U.S. Health and Human Services (HHS) Secretary Kathleen Sebelius hosted a panel discussion highlighting Northeast Ohio's success in implementing electronic health records at Cuyahoga Community College (Tri-C®) November 30.

With the headline "We Can't Wait", Secretary Sebelius [released a report](#) showing that the adoption of Health Information Technology (HIT) had doubled in two years, and announced new actions by HHS to reduce barriers to implementing HIT.

Tri-C was selected as the venue for this event because of the College's leadership in the development of HIT Training –Tri-C received a federal grant to lead the Midwest Consortium involving 17 community colleges in 10 states. 5,400

people will be trained over the two-year period of the grant.

In addition to Secretary Sebelius, panel participants included:

- Norma Morganti, Executive Director of Tri-C's Midwest Health Information Technology (HIT) consortium
- Geneva Foster, a graduate from the first HIT cohort
- Dr. Randall Cebul, MD, Director of Case Western Reserve University's MetroHealth System Center for Health Care Research and Policy
- Mary Alice Annecharico, Chief Information Officer, University Hospitals
- C. Martin Harris, Chief Information Officer, Cleveland Clinic

The panel highlighted the transformative potential of Health Information Technology for patients, the health care delivery system and for health care workers.

Geneva Foster, a student who graduated in the first HIT cohort shared her story of obtaining a degree in Information Systems and Communication, only to find a lack of job opportunities in these areas due to current economic conditions. After unsuccessfully searching for work for two years, Foster researched other opportunities to build upon her background, and discovered the HIT training program at Tri-C. Foster is now employed by the Summa Health System.

Tri-C ranks first nationally among two-year colleges in the number of associate degrees in health professions and related programs. To learn more about Tri-C's HIT training program, [visit the Tri-C website here.](#)