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## Fletcher Allen Health Care Teams with Vermont HITEC to Train Licensed Nursing Assistants

*Applications for Free Training Program Due June 1, 2010*

**Burlington, VT - May 17, 2010:** Fletcher Allen Health Care and Vermont HITEC announced today that they are recruiting candidates for the partnership's first training program for Licensed Nursing Assistants (LNA). The training will be provided free to participants and will lead directly to full-time positions.

The two part training program is at no cost to participants and will be conducted over an eight week period. Students who successfully complete an unpaid three week readiness program will enter a *paid* five-week training program that combines academic course content with clinical rotations.

The program will prepare eight (8) participants to work directly with patients and to apply for LNA licensure with the Vermont State Board of Nursing. Upon completion of the eight week training, the new LNAs will also participate in a one year state certified apprenticeship program.

The pay scale for an LNA begins at \$11.23 per hour with a comprehensive benefits package, with potential future earnings up to \$16.89 per hour. Participants may also be provided with college credits toward an associate's degree from a state community college.

The LNA program follows the success of six previous training programs implemented by the Fletcher Allen and Vermont HITEC partnership over the past four years. The program is funded through an Earmark grant acquired through the Office of Senator Patrick J. Leahy. The program is targeted for unemployed and underemployed Vermonters and for Fletcher Allen employees seeking to upgrade their skills.

"We deeply value our partnership with Vermont HITEC, which has grown into a long-term commitment to train Vermonters for jobs in the health care industry – not just today, but for many years to come," said Melinda L. Estes, M.D., president and chief executive officer of Fletcher Allen Health Care.

"Fletcher Allen has provided Vermonters with the opportunity to demonstrate that with the appropriate training they can become part of a high quality workforce dedicated to patient care," said Gerry Ghazi, President of Vermont HITEC. "We applaud their efforts to engage in this innovative partnership and hope to continue to offer similar opportunities in the future."

**The deadline for applying to the LNA program is Tuesday, June 1, 2010.** Individuals interested in applying to the program must visit [www.vthitec.org](http://www.vthitec.org) to fill out an online application. Questions and inquiries can be directed to Lisa Gorman, ITAR Project Leader, Vermont HITEC, Inc., P.O. Box 1548, Williston, VT

05495, or by email at [lisa.gorman@vthitec.org](mailto:lisa.gorman@vthitec.org). For up-to-date program information, visit: [www.vthitec.org](http://www.vthitec.org).

### **About the Fletcher Allen/Vermont HITEC Partnership**

Fletcher Allen and Vermont HITEC developed their partnership in 2004 with funding assistance from both the State of Vermont and the U.S. Department of Labor. The partnership was created to help address critical workforce development needs by training unemployed and underemployed Vermonters for jobs that are persistently difficult to fill. The goal is designed to be flexible to match current workforce needs with potential applicants who lacked the necessary skills to be considered for a position.

The first training session was conducted over an eight-month period in an intensive training program for 20 medical transcriptionists. This work-at-home program was followed by numerous health care workforce development initiatives developed with the support of a \$325,000 federal grant secured by Senator Patrick Leahy. The federal funding allowed for the implementation of the development of the partnership and workforce associated programs. Senator Leahy has since secured another \$588,000 and \$951,000 to support additional training programs. To date, over 90 Vermonters have been trained and offered positions through the partnership.

### **About Vermont HITEC**

Vermont HITEC is a 501C (3) non-profit organization with a mission to educate, train and employ Vermonters in a variety of fields. Vermont HITEC has employed over 400 Vermonters over the past ten years in the fields of healthcare, information technology and manufacturing partnering with over 20 Vermont businesses including Fletcher Allen Health Care, Husky Injection Molding Systems, Hazelett Strip Casting Corporation, IDX Systems (GE Healthcare) and Dealer.com.

### **About Fletcher Allen**

Fletcher Allen Health Care, together with our partners at the University of Vermont's College of Medicine and the College of Nursing and Health Sciences, is Vermont's academic medical center. Our mission is to improve the health of the people in the communities we serve by integrating patient care, education and research in a caring environment. Fletcher Allen serves as a regional referral center – providing advanced care to approximately one million people in Vermont and northern New York – and as a community hospital for approximately 150,000 residents in Chittenden and Grand Isle counties. With more than 30 patient care sites and 100 outreach clinics, programs and services throughout the region, Fletcher Allen is committed to being a national model for the delivery of high-quality academic health care for a rural region. For more information about Fletcher Allen, visit our Web site at [www.fahc.org](http://www.fahc.org).

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