

## FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

### **Fletcher Allen Health Care and Vermont HITEC Recognized by U.S. Department of Labor Office of Apprenticeship**

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**Burlington, VT – August 3, 2012:** Fletcher Allen and Vermont HITEC were recognized in Washington, D.C., this week for their work in developing career opportunities for underrepresented populations using Registered Apprenticeship as a foundational aspect of workforce development. The award was presented during a summit to commemorate the 75<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the signing of the National Apprenticeship Act. It honors apprenticeship programs that have demonstrated a commitment to excellence and had a significant impact on the needs of the U.S. industry and workforce in the 21<sup>st</sup> Century.

At the celebration of the 75<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the signing of the National Apprenticeship Act on August 1, 2012, U.S. Secretary of Labor Hilda L. Solis spoke of the trailblazing efforts of Fletcher Allen, Vermont HITEC, and other organizations that have reinvented apprenticeships in ways never imagined 75 years ago. Of the more than 24,000 apprenticeship programs currently operating in the United States, the Fletcher Allen/Vermont HITEC Informational Technology Apprenticeship Readiness (ITAR) program was one of only 70 chosen for their innovative approaches to utilizing Registered Apprenticeship in workforce development.

The Office of Apprenticeship awards registered apprentice programs this recognition if their programs, practices, strategies or partnerships demonstrate the types of trailblazing and innovative efforts that play a critical role in preparing the workforce in the 21<sup>st</sup> century. Because of this recognition, Fletcher Allen and Vermont HITEC were invited to attend the “Out-Educate, Out-Build, Out-Innovate” national summit hosted by the National Registered Apprenticeship System. Sponsored by Secretary of Labor Hilda L. Solis, the August 1 summit celebrated the role the Office of Apprenticeship has played during the last 75 years since the signing of the National Apprenticeship Act, also known as the Fitzgerald Act, which regulates apprentice and on-the-job-training programs.

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 first Vermont HITEC 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 the launching of a more formal health care workforce development training institute developed with the support of federal grants secured by Senator Patrick Leahy. To date, over 120 Vermont residents have been trained and offered positions at Fletcher Allen Health Care as a result of these programs, all of which include a Registered Apprenticeship or on-the-job training component.

“The ITAR model, together with Registered Apprenticeship, has resulted in job opportunities for underrepresented residents of our State,” said U.S. Senator Patrick Leahy. “In addition to positively affecting the lives of many individuals, the ability to recruit and train effective employees directly contributes to successful growth and positive economic development of the region.”



**Award Ceremony:** (left to right) The Honorable Hilda L. Solis; Juliane Hegle, Vermont HITEC; Lynn Romagnoli, Vermont HITEC; Tia Trottier, Fletcher Allen Health Care; John Ladd, Administrator, Office of Apprenticeship & Training Administration. **Photo Courtesy of the U.S. Department of Labor.**



Secretary of Labor Hilda L. Solis (foreground) celebrates the 75th anniversary of the National Apprenticeship Act by meeting with Apprenticeship Trailblazers on July 31 in Washington, D.C. Everett Jordan (behind Solis), director of education at Newport News Shipbuilding's Apprentice School, was a featured speaker at the summit. **Photo courtesy of the U.S. Department of Labor**

### **About Fletcher Allen**

Fletcher Allen Health Care, together with our partners at the University of Vermont 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).

### **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 600 Vermonters since 2000 in the areas of medical transcription, medical coding, phlebotomy, licensed nurse assistants, account managers, information technology and advanced manufacturing. It has

partnered with over two dozen Vermont businesses including Fletcher Allen Health Care, Allscripts, Husky Injection Molding Systems, Hazelett Strip Casting Corporation, IDX Systems (GE Healthcare) and Dealer.com.