



**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**  
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*STUDENTS GRADUATE PHLEBOTOMY APPRENTICESHIP PROGRAM*

*Funding Secured by Senator Leahy*

Williston, VT—Vermont HITEC of Williston announced today that the entire class of nine students successfully completed a one-year state registered apprenticeship program in phlebotomy. A phlebotomist obtains blood specimens using venipuncture and capillary collection from patients of all ages.

The students had been enrolled in an eight-week training program in the Spring of 2012 and also entered a paid, one-year state registered apprenticeship that offers stepped-up wages and full salaries upon completion. The students began training at \$13.13 per hour with a comprehensive benefit package and the potential to earn up to \$18.64 per hour.

Eight of the students also earned national certification by passing the Phlebotomy Certification exam, issued by the National Credentialing Agency for Laboratory Personnel (NCA). The job training program was made possible with funding secured by Senator Patrick J. Leahy from the U.S. Department of Labor. Senator Leahy said, "This job training program has a direct impact on improving the lives of unemployed and underemployed Vermonters."

The program was offered by the Williston based nonprofit Vermont HITEC in partnership with Fletcher Allen Health Care. It was offered at no cost to unemployed and underemployed Vermonter selected from among hundreds of applicants through a rigorous selection process. A

total of twenty-six participants have successfully completed a similar phlebotomy job training program over the past four years.

**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. Over the past 10 years, Vermont HITEC has partnered with over 30 Vermont and New Hampshire businesses to employ over 350 Vermonters in the healthcare, information technology and advanced manufacturing fields.

**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.fletcherallen.org](http://www.fletcherallen.org).

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