



For Immediate Release

Suncoast Technology Forum Announces Healthcare IT Seminar Series
"General Healthcare Issues and the Benefits of Adopting Technology"

Sarasota, Fla. December 24th, 2009 - Suncoast Technology Forum (formerly 82 Degrees Tech), Southwest Florida's leading technology advocacy group for companies creating and developing technology solutions in Sarasota and Manatee counties is pleased to announce the first in a quarterly series of Healthcare Information Technology (HIT) seminars designed to educate area healthcare professionals on relevant and effective technology solutions. The premier HIT session will begin on Thursday, January 21, 2010, from 5:00 -8:00pm, at the Polo Grill located at 10670 Boardwalk Loop in Lakewood Ranch, FL 34202.

The first seminar, entitled "General Healthcare Issues and the Benefits of Adopting Technology," will serve as a primer for future sessions and subsequent series events will focus on various, relevant Healthcare IT topics. Events in the series will follow a similar format, with a featured speaker, followed by interactive panel discussions and concluding with a social networking opportunity. Discussion panels will consist of practitioners who have employed the use of related aspect technology solutions and have experienced myriad real and tangible benefits.

Tom Frank, President of Suncoast Technology Forum, described the motivation behind this event series, stating, "Suncoast Technology Forum continues to provide informational and education events centered on information technology to the general business community in Sarasota and Manatee Counties. We are also reaching out to relevant sectors from an IT perspective: Healthcare was selected because of an overwhelming response and considerable level of interest expressed by our membership."

The featured speaker for the January event will be former Florida Congresswomen and Past Chair of the Health Care Quality Committee, the Honorable Gayle Harrell. Ms. Harrell is currently a member of the Health Information Technology Policy Committee, a Federal Advisory Committee which makes recommendations to the Office of the National Coordinator for Health IT, reporting to the Secretary of the Department of Health and Human Services (HHS). She is also a current candidate for the Florida House of Representatives from District 81.

The objective of Suncoast Technology Forum's Healthcare Information Technology Series is to develop a meaningful dialog with the area's healthcare industry representatives and to facilitate the dissemination of industry IT best practices and to provide actionable, educational content to the community. Attendees will include regional healthcare professionals, practitioners, IT and office administrators; as well as other 'non-healthcare' IT professionals. For information about the Suncoast Technology Forum organization, please visit www.82degreestech.com.

About Suncoast Technology Forum

The Suncoast Technology Forum, founded as 82 Degrees Tech in 2005 by a group of local entrepreneurs, professionals and the Sarasota and Manatee economic development organizations, is a professional association whose mission is to accelerate the technology ecosystem in Sarasota and Manatee counties. For membership or additional information please visit our website at www.82degreestech.com.

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Suncoast Technology Forum - Healthcare IT Seminar Series (Part 1)

Date: Thursday, January 21, 2010
Time: 5:00pm – 8:00pm
Location: Polo Grill
10670 Boardwalk Loop
Lakewood Ranch, FL 34202
(941) 782-0899
Featured Speaker: Former Rep. Gayle Harrell, HIT Policy Committee