



Aug. 5, 2009

**U.S. DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION AWARDS NONCOMPETITIVE
CONGRESSIONALLY-DIRECTED GRANT TO OIT**
Funding will support Health Informatics Simulation Lab

KLAMATH FALLS, Ore. – The U. S. Department of Education awarded a \$285,000 grant to Oregon Institute of Technology for its Health Informatics Simulation Laboratory (Sim Lab). The grant was secured in 2008 and awarded in July of 2009.

Overall, federal funds account for 100 percent of the total cost of the Sim Lab. There are no other sources of funding for the Sim Lab project.

OIT will use the \$285,000 Congressionally-directed grant to purchase information technologies and equipment in support of the Sim Lab. The Sim Lab, which is a core component of OIT's IT/Health Informatics bachelor's degree option, offers hands-on experience, as well as applied research and development opportunities, for undergraduate students from multiple disciplines including health informatics, computer science, software engineering, information technology and allied health. With the acquisition of additional equipment and technologies, the Sim Lab will offer the types of applications and systems that are already, or soon will be, used in health care delivery and support settings, such hospitals, medical clinics, laboratories and imaging centers. The knowledge and skills students gain will prepare the health care workforce for the 21st century.

The Sim Lab hardware is located in Beaverton at the West OIT campus. However, access to the lab is virtual and available from almost any computer with an

Internet connection, making it accessible to OIT students from all OIT campuses, as well as other OIT partners.

“This grant award is a major accomplishment for OIT. It is likely the first of its kind to support hands-on education in Health Informatics at the undergraduate level,” said OIT’s Health Informatics Program Director Michael Kirshner.

“OIT is grateful to Senators Wyden and Merkley and Congressman Wu for their support of the Sim Lab,” said OIT President Chris Maples. “Development of the Sim Lab will be a tremendous asset here in Oregon that will go a long way toward quality, relevant education for Oregonians.”

What is Health Informatics?

Health Informatics is a rapidly developing field that utilizes computer technology in the advancement of health care. OIT offers a bachelor’s degree in Information Technology with an option in Health Informatics. Specifically, Health Informatics is interdisciplinary and combines elements of IT, medicine and management. The program is offered by OIT in the Portland area (Clackamas and Beaverton) and Klamath Falls.

Visit www.oit.edu to learn more about OIT.

Kristina Maupin
Public Information Officer
(541) 885-1164

3201 Campus Drive
Klamath Falls, OR 97601
oit.edu