BITS AND BYTES

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Bob Norris Recipient of Annual UCHC Decker's Award

Each year one outstanding Health Center Employee who consistently demonstrates passion and commitment, going above and beyond to meet the goals of the UCHC organization is selected from a pool of extremely well deserving candidates as the recipient of the Dr. Peter J Deckers award. This year, IT's Bob Norris, Oracle DBA and key support architect behind the successful delivery of the new Banner HR/Finance/Procurement system suite, became the third ever recipient.   Bob's nomination for the award was supported by the entire extended business and IT Banner Core team membership and was conferred at the recent Expo 11 awards ceremony.

The excitement in the IT and Administrative areas about Bob winning the award was almost palpable. As Sandy Armstrong, CIO, communicated to the department following the award ceremony, "We would not have been able to successfully implement Banner on schedule without Bob's significant expertise and willingness to work whatever hours it took." Bob's commitment , competence, leadership and caring were exemplary.

Quite simply, the way Bob performed embodied the key attributes reflective of those valued by Dr. Deckers and receiving the award was very special to Bob. In his words, "The nature of my job involves all behind the scenes technical support work. While I can't imagine how what I did even comes close to the type of important work performed by so many of our clinical staff, doctors, and researchers here at UCHC, I truly appreciate this honor."

Purchasing Computer Equipment? Not sure what to order?

IT Purchasing is here to help you.

Making technology purchases can be a confusing process. The IT Purchasing staff is here to help in any way they can. IT Purchasing is well versed in our technical offerings and can quickly help you decide what technologies would best suit your needs. From determining which computer will best match your business needs to making sure that the printer you order won't let you down 6 months from now, they're here to help you. Not sure if your computer's memory can be upgraded? Email IT Purchasing and they'll be able to let you know! If you're not quite comfortable using HuskyBuy yet, our staff will build the shopping cart for you and send it on to the next approver on your behalf. And our assistance doesn't stop there!

If you subscribe to our support services, we will arrange for your system to be fully loaded with our standard software, deliver it to your desk and transfer the data from your old computer to the new one. In the event of a problem with your new system, we will handle any returns or warranty repairs on your behalf as well! IT Purchasing will work with our hardware vendor and/or the manufacturer of the faulty product to ensure a swift, hassle free, repair.

Simply email the IT Purchasing department at ITPurchasingDA@uchc.edu and we will be happy to help you out!

UConn Health Center

Teamwork Ensures NICU Integration Success

Over the past 18 months there was an ongoing effort at UCHC to integrate our Neo-Natal Intensive Care beds with the Connecticut Children's Medical Center. This initiative was part of the Health Center's overall plan to add additional medical-surgical beds to meet our goals for the new hospital tower. Many areas within IT committed key resources to this project to ensure its successful completion including Desktop Services, IT Support Services, Call Center operations, Data Services, Integration Support, and Clinical Applications.

This was a far reaching project that involved numerous areas of UCHC working together to achieve a very aggressive go-live target and which earned a most deserved PAWS award recognition for the entire team. Much thanks to the IT staff and all Project Team members that made this integration a huge success!

As of September 1st the Neonatal Intensive Care Unit located on the UConn Health Center campus became officially known as Connecticut Children's NICU at UConn Health Center.

Connecticut Children's NICU at UConn Health Center
282 Washington Street
Hartford, CT 06101

Medical School Students Get Introduced to EMR

Exciting advances are underway for the Medical School curriculum as we introduced Electronic Medical Record technology to the 1st Year students in October. After taking two short online courses on why EMRs are important and how to navigate an EMR, 1st Year PCM students worked through exercises in class in early October designed to introduce EMR concepts before they begin to work in sites where EMRs are now in active use. The students accessed our NextGen EMR system to learn how to perform a five point check to validate the patient, and how to look up past medical history, family history, social history, medications and allergies, as well how to view a typical online progress note for a patient visit. As provider offices nationwide rapidly move to full electronic charts for their patients, continuing to introduce curriculum innovations utilizing our newly licensed Medical School EMR will ensure our students have access to the most current technology.

For more information, please contact Roberta Luby at x4088.

Patient Care Documentation — Successfully Deployed

Pictured above is Carrie Wolfe, Staff Nurse on Surgery 7, using the PCD Vital Signs Monitor

UCHC's pursuit to go paperless, secure Meaningful Use payment incentives for JDH, and continue the quest toward achieving the highest level of HIMS certification recently hit another significant milestone with the rollout of automated Patient Care Document. This innovative solution from the Siemens product suite enables greater collaboration among care teams, reduces duplicate charting, ensures medical charts are legibly signed, dated, and time stamped and ultimately improves the quality of patient care and service.

During the past year the project team, which was comprised of a large number of dedicated IT and Clinical Informatics staff, worked in close collaboration to define, build and test more than 100 nursing flow sheets. This included creation of various data fields structured specifically for Meaningful Use. Since August, over 400 nurses and support staff (CNA's and MA's), as well as nearly 60 super users attended classroom training in preparation for the rollout which began on November 1st. Thanks to the phenomenal support of more than 50 staff who expended nearly 3,000 hours of work effort, the multiple unit deployment concluded in under 3 weeks and by every measure was deemed a major success!

For more information, please contact Bert Romeo at x8054.

Meaningful Use Makes Headway

The UMG Internal Medicine and General Medicine practices have been focused for the last 2 months on understanding the ARRA measures associated with becoming "Meaningful Users". The NextGen application single-handedly supports the requirements for the outpatient arena; however, it is no small feat to get the offices up to speed in practicing the workflows and using the proper keystrokes. A dashboard is presented weekly across all providers to give them a snapshot view of where they stand on a measure by measure basis, as well as, among their peers. Dr Simon is reaching out to work with all providers on an individual basis.

In January, 24 providers will be poised to attest to MU measures for October – December reporting period. The attestation will require each provider to log into a CMS website and provide either numerator/denominator values for each measure (which are available via NG reports) or to attest that a measure has been completed. This process will take approximately 1 hour of each provider's time. Within 6 weeks after attestation, UMG will receive over $400 thousand dollars in incentive payments from Medicare!

EHR Stimulus Funding	+	ePrescribe Incentive	+	PQRI Incentive
$44,000 per MD over 5 years		$3,000 - 5,000 per MD per year through 2011		$3,000 - 5,000* per MD per year

*Estimate - will vary based on Medicare mix and volume of patients. Physicians cannot recieve both eRX and Stimulus incentives

The JDH Meaningful Use team is focused on the projects required to attest for Meaningful Use next year. However, since the State of Ct (DPH) has advised that a hospital can apply for Medicaid Meaningful Use dollars in 2011 as long as plans are in place to be Meaningful Use compliant in the next two years, we have formally attested for Medicaid Meaningful Use incentives for 2011, with the expectation that we will see close to $560 thousand in 2012.

For more information, please contact Kathy Noel at x6257.

Blackboard Moves Mobile

Over the past year the Blackboard Mobile Learn platform at UCHC, implemented by IT Instructional Design Specialist Jason Nicosia, has taken interactive teaching and learning to the next step. Students and faculty alike now have the ability to access all their Blackboard content from their mobile devices, This includes all course and organization material as well as popular content areas such as the grade book and various course and organization discussion boards. The Mobile Learn platform currently supports a variety of mobile devices including Apple OIS, Blackberry, Palm smartphones and coming soon will be Android devices.

For more information, please contact Jason Nicosia at x2573.

Making Online System Access Secure and Simple

Active Directory Domain Services are the foundation for allowing online network communication and system access at UCHC. Health Center IT has been supporting two unique Domains, one for Education and one for the UCHC Enterprise, for some period of time. An Audit conducted in 2010 identified security shortcomings with the Education Domain. Now an effort is underway in IT to make end user access to UCHC's diverse set of electronic systems simpler and more secure.

Achieving this goal involves a migration to a single directory domain for everyone at the Health Center. This effort began earlier this year and the migration is now roughly 50% complete. All employees and residents who were part of the Education Domain have been moved to the UCHC Domain. Migration of student accounts remains. Timing to complete will be decided with consideration of student academic calendar needs and with the goal of minimizing impact on studies. For more information, please contact Tom Murphy at x2295.

ABOUT BITS AND BYTES

BITS AND BYTES is distributed periodically by the Information Technology Department. Submit suggestions to the email address below.

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