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*Press Release*

# SREB News



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*The Southern Regional Education Board works with states to improve public education at every level, from pre-K through Ph.D. A nonprofit, nonpartisan organization based in Atlanta, SREB was created in 1948 by Southern governors and legislatures to advance education and improve the social and economic life of the region. SREB member states are Alabama, Arkansas, Delaware, Florida, Georgia, Kentucky, Louisiana, Maryland, Mississippi, North Carolina, Oklahoma, South Carolina,*

## **SREB Adds Health Informatics to Advanced Career Offerings**

### **8 Career Pathway Curricula Available to U.S. High Schools**

*Atlanta — October 28, 2014* — The Southern Regional Education Board has added Health Informatics to the Advanced Career (AC) curricula available to all high schools.

Developed jointly with the Ohio Association of Career-Technical Superintendents (OACTS) through a grant from the Ohio Department of Education, the AC Health Informatics curriculum comprises four courses: data and use, transforming data into information, transforming information into knowledge, and problems and solutions.

Schools in **Kentucky, Louisiana, Ohio, South Carolina** and **West Virginia** are already adopting AC Health Informatics courses.

The curriculum introduces students to this growing career field through a series of projects that merge information science, computer science and health care. Students use information technology, data

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Tennessee, Texas,  
Virginia and West  
Virginia.



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analysis software and statistics to discover how to use data for patient care and health care industry research and planning.

“As the health care field grows in size and diversity, it will require increasingly varied and complex skills in its workers,” said Thomas N. Applegate, OACTS executive director and a longtime career-technical education administrator at both the secondary and postsecondary level. “SREB’s Advanced Career Health Informatics curriculum is providing students with not only technical skills but also the thinking, teamwork and academic skills crucial in this emerging career field.”

### **Health Informatics Career Opportunities**

“SREB’s Health Informatics curriculum will provide students the foundational skills for entry-level jobs and postsecondary studies,” said SREB Senior Vice President Gene Bottoms. It also will show them how opportunities in this growing field can be rewarding, in terms of income and job satisfaction, and start them on a career journey.”

Completion of the four-course sequence prepares students to enter jobs such as health information technician, medical records clerk, insurance claims clerk or medical records technician – or to pursue postsecondary programs in related fields. Health informatics specialists work in nursing, pharmacy, public health, research. clinical and other settings.

###

#### **About SREB Advanced Career**

Advanced Career is an initiative of SREB and a consortium of states to create career programs that

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prepare high school students for both college and careers. The AC pathways of four academically demanding career courses are organized around hands-on projects that require students to apply college- and career-readiness standards, technical know-how and 21st-century skills such as critical thinking and communication. Each career pathway is joined with a college-ready academic core and designed to bridge high school and postsecondary studies in ways that lead to industry certificates, technical college certificates, or associate or bachelor's degrees.

AC pathway programs available to schools from SREB:

- **Aerospace Engineering**
- **Clean Energy Technology**
- **Energy and Power**
- **Global Logistics and Supply Chain Management**
- **Health Informatics**
- **Informatics**
- **Innovations in Science and Technology**
- **Integrated Production Technologies**

Schools in these states are adopting AC pathways:

- **Alabama**
- **Arkansas**
- **Florida**
- **Georgia**
- **Kentucky**
- **Louisiana**
- **Massachusetts**
- **New Jersey**
- **New Mexico**
- **New York**
- **North Carolina**
- **Ohio**
- **South Carolina**
- **West Virginia**

At Advanced Career field-test schools, 80 percent of students who completed an AC course said they would

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recommend the course to friends, according to student survey data.

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