

Centers of Workforce Innovation | End of Year Report Outs (Year 3 | FY25)

Quick recap

The meeting focused on reviewing Year 3 Fiscal Year 25 performance reports for various healthcare workforce initiatives, with presentations from multiple community colleges showcasing their progress in health information technology, nursing reentry programs, and patient care technician training. The Health Information Technology Program at Essex County College highlighted their successful credentialing and training efforts, including a partnership with HIMSS and participation in a healthcare hackathon. The conversation ended with discussions about patient care technician pathway projects across five community colleges and the importance of NHA credentials in healthcare programs, with plans for upcoming performance report sessions and the NJ Pathways Summit.

Next steps

- [📅 All Patient Care Technician Pathway Project teams to continue monitoring student outcomes at the end of the fall semester to evaluate program effectiveness.](#)
- [📅 Karen and nursing reentry course team to determine whether to continue running the course as a credit or non-credit offering based on end-of-semester outcome measures.](#)
- [📅 UCNJ and Ocean County College to continue working with their academic affairs divisions to explore pathways from the Patient Care Technician program into health sciences degrees.](#)
- [📅 All project teams to complete and analyze student surveys to evaluate program effectiveness.](#)
- [📅 Monique and Patient Care Technician Pathway Project teams to maintain employer engagement with RWJ Barnabas Health, Atlantic Health, and St. Peter's for continued job placement opportunities.](#)
- [📅 Dana Castro and Health Information Technology team to pursue additional funding opportunities to scale the hackathon program.](#)

- [All project teams to prepare for sustainability planning meeting later in the day.](#)
- [All participants to consider attending the NJ Pathways Summit for 2026, scheduled for June 9-11 at the Hard Rock Cafe.](#)

Summary

Year 3 Performance Report Overview

The meeting focused on the Year 3 Fiscal Year 25 end-of-year performance report for the Center of Workforce Innovation for Patient Care. Catherine, representing the New Jersey Community College Consortium for Workforce and Economic Development and the New Jersey Pathways to Career Opportunities Initiative, welcomed attendees and highlighted the progress made in creating seamless connections between education, training, and employment. She introduced Lisa Huscano to speak further on the agenda, which included updates from project teams working on health information technology, nurse and reentry, and patient care technician training initiatives.

Essex-HIMSS Healthcare Training Initiative

The Health Information Technology Program at Essex County College, in partnership with Brookdale Community College and HIMSS, has successfully implemented a credentialing and training initiative. The program, led by Dr. LV Vieira and Dana Castro, has trained 57 students and 29 healthcare professionals, achieving a 90% pass rate for certifications. The collaboration includes a hackathon with Cooper University Healthcare, where students develop solutions for healthcare issues, and has been expanded to include Union County participants. The program's success has led to membership in HIMSS for Essex County College and potential opportunities for scaling the hackathon and pursuing additional funding.

Nursing Reentry Program Pilot Review

The team from Foundations for Success Nursing Reentry Course discussed their pilot program across three institutions: Rowan, Salem, and Atlantic Cape. Karen reported on Rowan's hybrid course with 16 students, which ran over the summer and included in-person sessions and online components. Dr. Renee shared Salem's experience with 21 students, noting their 4-week hybrid format included simulation and skills lab activities. Gerry described Atlantic Cape's program with 34-35 students, highlighting challenges with time management and the course's length. The team agreed to evaluate outcomes at the end of the semester before deciding whether to continue the program as a credit or non-credit course, with all institutions planning to conduct surveys for program evaluation.

Community College Healthcare Pathway Initiative

The meeting highlighted a collaborative effort among five community colleges to expand healthcare access through the Patient Care Technician (PCT) pathway project. Monique Brathwaite from UCNJ introduced the initiative, which aimed to align programs with workforce needs and reduce barriers to entry in allied health programs. Participants shared their experiences and outcomes, including successful student completion rates, job placements, and partnerships with healthcare employers. The discussion emphasized the importance of collaboration, clear participation guidelines, and early employer engagement. Lisa mentioned exploring educational pathways into health sciences degrees for program graduates, and Conrad inquired about other potential career pathways, which Lisa confirmed was being explored.

NHA Credentials in Healthcare Programs

The group discussed the use of NHA credentials in healthcare programs, with Lisa explaining that employers had previously recognized NHA credentials for hiring purposes. Scott and Monique highlighted the value of NHA's stackable credentials and their use in various healthcare programs. The conversation touched on re-entry programs for nursing students, with clarification provided by Lisa and Gerry. Catherine reminded everyone about upcoming end-of-year performance report sessions and the NJ Pathways Summit scheduled for June 9-11, 2026.