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Precyse Partners with Vermont HITEC to Build a Work-At-Home Medical Coding Workforce: Applications for Education Program Due January 4, 2015

SOUTH BURLINGTON, VT: *Precyse*, an industry leader in Health Information Management (HIM) performance solutions and *Vermont HITEC* (a not-for-profit education center), announced today that the two organizations are entering into a partnership to fill *Precyse's* current and future medical coding workforce development needs in Vermont.

The two organizations are now recruiting candidates for the first session of the medical coding education program to train candidates as at-home medical coders for *Precyse*. A medical coder analyzes medical documentation and assigns proper standardized codes used in medical claims. This program is a collaborative effort involving the *US Department of Labor, Vermont Department of Labor, Vermont Agency of Commerce, Vermont HITEC* and *Precyse*.

Vermont HITEC has partnered with businesses to employ over 1,000 individuals in the healthcare, information technology and advanced manufacturing fields. The *Precyse* program is unique because the medical coding positions allow *Precyse* colleagues to work from home.

The *Precyse* program offers a combination of no-cost education and the advantage of working from home while receiving a competitive wage and full benefits. This presents an opportunity for those living in rural regions of Vermont with limited career opportunities, and is a great option for those who are looking for a fresh start with a new career, as no prior healthcare experience is needed for candidates to apply to the *Precyse* program.

The program is offered at no cost to applicants who reside in Vermont. Candidates who have been unemployed for an extended period of time are encouraged to apply, as the educational program and apprenticeship is specifically designed to support Vermonters who are pursuing a significant career change or have been out of the work force, or who are recent graduates struggling to find a job.

“Vermont residents are in need of opportunities for higher skill jobs at higher wages. This program is a great example of how Vermont State government, the healthcare industry, and our non-profit sector can collaborate to bring living-wage jobs to Vermont,” says ***Vermont Governor Peter Shumlin***. “This training program – with guaranteed jobs at the conclusion – is the right way to invest our State’s training money, as it has both immediate gains and long-term sustainability for our Vermont economy and citizens. I am pleased to see pre-apprenticeship, apprenticeship and on-the-job training programs being used successfully in our state to match and educate motivated, hardworking unemployed and underemployed Vermonters with good-paying career opportunities.”

“*Vermont HITEC*, in partnership with the State of Vermont, provides Vermonters with the education they need to thrive professionally in rewarding careers,” comments *U.S. Senator Patrick Leahy*. “The healthcare industry is one of the fastest growing sectors in our economy. I am pleased to see pre-apprenticeship, apprenticeship and on-the-job training programs being used successfully in our state to match and educate motivated, hardworking unemployed and underemployed Vermonters with good-paying career opportunities.”

Potentially 15 individuals will be selected for the ten-week education program with *Precyse* through an extensive recruitment process. This education will prepare individuals to take the medical coding certification exam, issued by the American Academy of Professional Coders (AAPC). Upon graduation from the program, participants will fill one of the open medical coder apprentice positions. All positions will receive full wages and benefits.

“Our team is excited to partner with the State of Vermont and *Vermont HITEC* on this initiative,” said *Chris Powell, Chief Executive Officer of Precyse*. “But for the economic growth incentives offered by the state and the state funding to cover the costs of the education, *Precyse* would continue its practice of hiring these jobs in other states and outsourcing overseas. This partnership will help us to enhance our medical coding services for the healthcare industry while providing Vermont residents exciting and rewarding careers. It’s a win-win.”

The deadline for medical coding applications is **January 4, 2015**. To apply, complete the online application via *Vermont HITEC* website: www.vthitec.org. For more information or assistance, contact: Rebecca Carter, ITAR Project Leader & Mentor, via email: rebecca.carter@vthitec.org, or via phone: 802-872-0660.

"We fill the gap between motivated individuals who lack specific job skills and employers looking for well-trained and qualified staff," said *Gerry Ghazi, President of Vermont HITEC*. "Our goal at *Vermont HITEC* is to provide motivated Vermont job seekers with the opportunity to acquire the skills needed for great jobs at highly successful businesses - these health care education programs are an excellent way to match *Precyse* up with exceptional individuals."

About Precyse

Precyse has enabled nearly 5,000 healthcare facilities and health systems nationwide to improve efficiency and deliver tangible outcomes for more than a decade. With products ranging from an integrated transcription and coding platform with advanced speech recognition, expert workflow technologies, and Natural Language Processing (NLP) to Health Information Management (HIM) consulting and services, *Precyse*'s flexible software can be delivered stand-alone or complemented by a professional staff of more than 1,400 experts. Now more than ever, hospitals and health systems are challenged to achieve meaningful use of the legal health record. *Precyse* is the partner hospitals across the country choose to achieve this goal. Learn more about *Precyse*: www.precyse.com.

About Vermont HITEC

Vermont HITEC is a 501C (3) non-profit organization with a mission to educate, train and employ Vermonters in a variety of fields. Over the past 13 years, *Vermont HITEC* has partnered with over 30 Vermont and New Hampshire businesses to employ over 1,000 individuals in the healthcare, information technology, and advanced manufacturing fields.