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**COALITION FOR CONTINUOUS  
IMPROVEMENT IN HEALTHCARE**

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# PRESS RELEASE

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## CCIH Hosts “Working Together For Success”

*Event Shows Successes of MnSCU Organizations Combined Efforts*

**Alexandria, February 13, 2009:** January 15, 2009 may have been one of the coldest days on record for the State of Minnesota, but that did not stop the enthusiasm happening at Alexandria Technical College in Alexandria, MN, as four MnSCU colleges publicly introduced the Coalition for Continuous Improvement in Healthcare (CCIH).

The CCIH was founded by Alexandria Technical College, Itasca Community College, Northland Community and Technical College and Winona State University, all members of the Minnesota State Colleges and University’s system. The idea of building this Coalition was to explore how to best utilize the outcomes of grant monies given to these MnSCU organizations for the development of Lean Healthcare curriculum.

The CCIH began in 2006, after all four educational institutions had recognized that they all had the same purpose in mind. Through Lean Healthcare grants awarded by the Minnesota Job Skills Partnership program (MJSP), they realized that instead of working as competitors, they could combine their skills, successes, and curriculum and offer Healthcare facilities in every corner of the state high quality standardized curriculum.

The first MSJP grant for Lean Healthcare was awarded in 2004, after the manufacturing sector, which has been using the Lean concepts for years, started asking, “Why can’t Lean be used in Healthcare?” Manufacturing companies have seen the rise of healthcare costs for them and for their employees and embraced the opportunity of bring Lean concepts to Healthcare.

During the initial planning sessions of the CCIH, a vision, a mission, and goals were outlined. The vision is to be nationally recognized as a preferred curriculum provider for continuous improvement training for the healthcare industry.

The Mission is to provide high quality continuous improvement curriculum, to improve the quality of care delivery, decrease costs, and improve processes within the healthcare industry through a coalition of stakeholders that include MnSCU members and healthcare partners.

The goal is to build membership within the Coalition of educational organizations and healthcare facilities and to allow access to the Process Improvement curriculum. "We have a lot of exciting ideas we want to put into place," said Connie Troska, CCIH Coordinator. "Workshops, brown bag lunch webinars, a new website, building partnerships through networking, and building the realization of a common cause, are all ideas we are looking forward to exploring."

The Coalition for Continuous Improvement in Healthcare is also working with HealthForce Minnesota to build on the foundation they have already created. "Working with HealthForce Minnesota and MJSP has opened new doors to ideas, opportunities and relationships. We certainly look forward this endeavor and all that it has to offer" said Troska.

For more information on the Coalition for Continuous Improvement in Healthcare, contact Connie Troska, CCIH Coordinator at 218-686-8738.