ALGOMA university

1520 Queen Street East,
Sault Ste. Marie
Ontario
P6A 2G4
T : 705-949-2301
F :705-949-6583
www.algomau.ca

SAULT STE. MARIE **INNOVATION** CENTRE

1520 Queen Street East,
Room NW307
Sault Ste. Marie, Ontario
P6A 2G4
T: 705-942-7927
F: 705-942-6169
www.ssmic.com

FAQ

Algoma University's Health Informatics Research Institute
Frequently Asked Questions

1. **Why is this important?**

The institute will be established to provide governance, management and promotion of health informatics research activities initiated in northern Ontario. Sault Ste. Marie has been recognized internationally for its advanced work in the field of health informatics and the institute will capitalize on this advantage to drive further research in this field and deliver benefits to the health care system. In doing so, the institute will focus on the area of Primary and Community Care Informatics and will engage local expertise in the applications of geospatial technologies, health system management and serious games for health.

The establishment of the health informatics research institute will provide many important benefits to northern Ontario, and also the Canadian health care system as a whole. By leveraging the community's established health informatics strengths the institute will: build research capacity, attract research funding to the region, attract skilled research and management professionals, drive job creation, develop commercial opportunities, enhance the reputation and standing of Algoma University

2. **How will the health informatics research institute and the ESRI Canada Health Informatics Research Chair work together?**

Once established, Algoma University's ESRI Canada Health Informatics Research Chair will provide strategic direction for the institute as its director. This will include finding new opportunities for research and funding, catalyzing and facilitating research programs where health informatics can play a role and coordinating resource acquisition and allocation. The chair will also work in consultation with the health informatics research institute's Board of Directors. The ESRI Canada HI research chair position was announced in December 2008 and received over $1 million in funding from the Northern Ontario Heritage Fund Corporation (NOHFC) and ESRI Canada. The ESRI Canada HI research chair position is currently posted and Algoma University hopes to have the successful candidate in place for July 2009.

3. **When will the Institute be established?**

As stated above, it is anticipated that the health informatics research chair will be hired in July and that the formal establishment of the institute will follow soon afterwards.

4. **What is health informatics?**

Health Informatics is the discipline that investigates how information, information management, and information and communications technologies (ITC) can be used to deliver value in the area of health (WIHIR, 2003).

5. **How long is the funding for?**

The FedNor funding is for the duration of two years to support the institute.

6**. How are you working with the National Institutes of Health Informatics (NIHI)?**

Dominic Covvey from the National Institutes of Health Informatics (NIHI) has been involved in supporting this initiative from project inception and will also support the future HI research chair. NIHI will also be involved in participating in the recruitment and selection process for the HI research chair. NIHI will continue to support the HI research chair by:

- Providing advice on connecting with key organizations and individuals

- Collaborating on research proposal submissions

- Providing access to collaborators and potential partners

- Giving guidance and problem solving for curriculum design and development

7. **What role does the Sault Ste. Marie Innovation Centre (SSMIC) have?**

The Sault Ste. Marie Innovation Centre (SSMIC) has worked in a partnership with Algoma University on the development of this project. Health informatics is identified as an important sector for development in SSMIC's strategic plan. As a result, SSMIC recognizes the need to attract academic researchers, such as the health informatics research chair, to help further the work of local researchers in health informatics.

8. **Will the institute work with health organizations in the community?**

Yes. It is anticipated the institute's governance structure will provide opportunities for
the stakeholders of local health organizations to participate as board members and research members of the institute.

9. **Who supported this initiative and the related initiative to establish the Health Informatics Research Chair?**

Funding partners to support the Health Informatics Research Chair included:

- The Northern Ontario Heritage Fund Corporation
- ESRI Canada
- Algoma University

Letters of Support for Algoma University to pursue funding for the Health Informatics Institute and Chair were received from:

- Sault Ste. Marie and District Group Health Association
- Sault Area Hospital
- Northern Ontario School of Medicine
- Sault College of Applied Arts and Technology
- Sault College of Applied Arts and Technology (Health Program)
- Waterloo Institute for Health Informatics Research
- Destiny Sault Ste. Marie

For More Information Contact:

Donna Woldanski
Divisional Director of Communications
Algoma University
1520 Queen St. E.
Sault Ste. Marie, ON P6A 2G4
705-949-2301, Ext. 4120
donna.woldanski@algomau.ca
www.algomau.ca

Mei Ling
Communications Manager
Sault Ste. Marie Innovation Centre
1520 Queen St. E., Rm. NW307
Sault Ste. Marie, ON P6A 2G4
705-942-7927, Ext. 3122
mling@ssmic.com
www.ssmic.com
www.itssm.com