

**WHITMER JOINS THE SOUTHWEST FLORIDA COLLEGE
PORT CHARLOTTE CAMPUS AS AN INSTRUCTOR OF MEDICAL BILLING AND CODING**

Port Charlotte, Fla., (December 28, 2009) – An educator and top administrator from a leading health services firm in Collier County has joined Southwest Florida College as an instructor for Medical Billing and Coding curriculum, the college announced this week.

Elizabeth A. Whitmer, RHIT, AHDI-F is a Registered Health Information Technician and a recognized Fellow of the Association for Healthcare Documentation Integrity. She has been active in the healthcare field for the past 23 years. Most recently, Whitmer had been Director of Health Information and Privacy Officer for Collier Health Services in Collier County. She had also been an adjunct faculty member with the Health Information Management program at Hodges University, educating and mentoring students in the many areas of healthcare.

Whitmer has been recognized over the years with many awards for her accomplishments and contributions to the healthcare field. She is currently chapter president of Health Information Management Association's Southwest Florida group.

In addition to fulfilling leadership roles in her profession and community, Whitmer regularly publishes educational articles on healthcare management subjects in community newspapers and magazines as well as professional journals. She brings a great deal of experience and expertise to complement a comprehensive system of healthcare education and medical coding and health information systems education at Southwest Florida College.

"I am thoroughly impressed with the scope and quality of SWFC's healthcare program and its graduates," Whitmer said. "I'm looking forward to helping shape the future of the program as well as its graduates as we prepare together for the technological and human challenges that healthcare professionals will face in the decades to come," she said.

Southwest Florida College is an accredited, private, institution of higher learning centrally located in Fort Myers, Tampa, Port Charlotte, and includes the Institute of Interior Design located within the Miromar Design Center in Estero. The College offers programs in Health Care, Business, Design, Education, Information Technology and Legal Studies. Its mission is to provide educational opportunities for individuals to acquire knowledge and skills that will help prepare them for rewarding careers in fields with high growth potential. For more information, call toll free 888-526-7973 or visit www.swfc.edu.