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## **Technology Council of Central Pennsylvania Hosts Groundbreaking Technology and Medicine Summit**

### *Group Makes Major e-Prescription Deployment Initiative Announcement*

**HARRISBURG, PA (December 16, 2005)** – The Technology Council of Central Pennsylvania hosted the first-ever summit on technology and medicine today, making a major announcement on an e-Prescription initiative; and a \$10 Million request for Hershey Medical Center and Penn State's College of Medicine.

The Pennsylvania Technology and Medicine Summit held at the Hershey Lodge and Convention Center, showcased innovations that support medical applications and emerging companies that are demonstrating and delivering healthcare solutions.

Kelly Lewis, President & CEO of the Technology Council of Central Pennsylvania, said the conference was critical because of the growing link between technology and medicine. He said Pennsylvania has developed the critical mass to lead the nation in e-Prescription Deployment at every healthcare facility, physician's office, pharmacy and insurance plan.

"The amazingly powerful convergence of technology and medicine has developed secure and affordable e-Prescription Systems that save lives, money and time," stated Lewis. "Right now, the technology, the interoperability and several major sources of funding exist and are readily available to promptly get e-Prescription systems fully deployed across our Pennsylvania. Today, we are announcing, "2006 – The Year of e-Prescription for Pennsylvania." And throughout the year we are going to be leading efforts to help our doctors, pharmacies, insurance plans and hospitals get e-Prescription deployed in 2006. It's time!"

E-Prescription Systems refer to the use of computing devices to enter, modify, review, and output or communicate drug prescriptions. According to the Center for Information Technology Leadership, it is estimated that the widespread adoption of e-prescribing could eliminate more than 2 million adverse drug events each year, more than 130,000 of which would be life-threatening.

Lewis added, "Highmark's recent \$26 Million Foundation for e-Prescription will help jumpstart Pennsylvania leadership in e-Prescription deployment. Already, many Pennsylvania hospitals are industry leaders in e-Prescription systems and we applaud and praise their leadership. Pennsylvania's healthcare providers continue to deploy innovative ways to increase patient safety and in many cases help set and exceed national standards. That's why we are support Hershey Medical Centers \$10 million state-aid request. We believe 2006 is the year Pennsylvania can take the lead and save lives."

Speakers at the summit discussed a variety of topics pertaining to e-medicine. Participants in the groundbreaking discussions included State Rep. Mike Turzai along with innovative e-business and technology companies KnowledgePlanet, Verefi Technologies, Micromechatronics and Pepper, Hamilton & Sheetz.

Leaders in the region's healthcare industry, such as representatives from the Pennsylvania e-Health Initiative, Highmark, Penn State Hershey Medical Center, Lancaster General Hospital and Pocono Medical Center also participated.

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The Technology Council will help our Pennsylvania companies become and remain the technology leaders in their industries so our companies can successfully compete locally, nationally, and globally.

The Technology Council will be the number one public policy advocate for technology, telecommunications, and its workforce in Pennsylvania.

The Technology Council's focused mission is to create, attract, retain, and grow technology companies.

Rep. Turzai, a staunch advocate for advanced medical initiatives, highlighted Pennsylvania's leadership in healthcare.

Rep. Turzai stated, "State-of-the-art technology allows hospitals and medical providers to deliver quality health care," he said. "I am pleased to participate in the Pennsylvania Technology and Medicine Summit, sponsored by the Technology Council of Central Pennsylvania. This program highlights the need for the continuous interaction between health care and technology."

Lewis said these issues will continue to be important themes for his organization.

"The Technology Council is devoted to assisting Pennsylvania's companies and healthcare facilities so they remain leaders in their industries," he said. "Together, we are enabling Pennsylvania to best compete on a local, national and global basis."

Sponsors of the Technology and Medicine Summit include: Hershey Medical Center, KnowledgePlanet, Penn State College of Medicine, Reclamere, LAM Systems, Saul Ewing, Right Reasons Technologies, and the Technology Council of Central Pennsylvania.

*Technology Council of Central Pennsylvania is a 100 percent member funded non-profit 501C(6) organization, leading technology, advancing prosperity, innovation and technology education to accelerate the development of world-class companies to achieve leadership positions in local, national and global markets resulting in increased prosperity.*

*For more information on the Technology Council of Central Pennsylvania, please call 717-635-2113 or visit [www.tccp.org](http://www.tccp.org).*

### **The Technology Agenda for Pennsylvania Announced 2005-2006 Initiatives**

- a) e-Prescription deployment in every PA hospital, pharmacy, insurance plan and doctor's office
- b) \$10 Million Non-Preferred Earmark for Hershey Medical Center, Penn State College of Medicine
- c) \$15 million for Pennsylvania State Police – Operation Clean Upgrade
- d) \$3 million for Drug & Alcohol/MH/MR reporting systems
- e) \$10 million State Cyber Security Vulnerability Assessment
- f) \$3 million PUC Info Map second Year Funding
- g) \$12 Million Statewide Radio Interoperability Communications Systems Project
- h) \$10 Million increase in Ben Franklin Partnership Funding for Start-up Companies
- i) Make Pennsylvania the leader in Broadband and Wireless deployment, add telecommunications to economic development.
  - i) Repeal the Gross Receipts Tax on Cellphones.
  - ii) Repeal all Telecommunications Taxes
  - iii) Add Telecommunications to all economic development tools and resources
  - iv) Lead efforts to get the best and most affordable broadband and wireless in the nation.
- j) Repeal "Graham Packaging" Sales tax on canned software
- k) \$100 million increase in State's Technology Budget to fast-track e-Government Services Projects

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