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Nevada To Partner With Microsoft to Offer Job Training

Microsoft to provide displaced workers with free technology training through the Microsoft Elevate America program

Las Vegas, NV —Governor Jim Gibbons announced today, that Nevada will join forces with Microsoft in an innovative public-private partnership to provide free technology training to displaced workers.

The press conference was held at Nevada JobConnect at 3405 Maryland Parkway, Las Vegas, NV at 10 a.m.

Through Elevate America, Microsoft will work with Nevada's Department of Employment, Training and Rehabilitation (DETR) to distribute 6,750 vouchers for technology training and certification. Information about the program and training vouchers for Nevada will ONLY be available online at www.nvdetr.org and www.Nevadajobconnect.com.

"We are pleased to have the opportunity to partner with Microsoft, a world-wide leader in technology," the Governor said. "This partnership is a perfect example of how government and private businesses can forge together to help our citizens prevail during this economic downturn. This program will give thousands of Nevadans the tools they need to compete more readily for jobs in this market that requires greater computer knowledge than ever before."

The vouchers are redeemable for free classes to improve general computer skills or training on one of the programs in the Microsoft Office Suite; assessment, which if passed, signifies a student Microsoft certified in a particular field; and training for those on IT professional career tracks in areas such as web development or database management.

"Elevate America is designed to equip people with the critical technology skills necessary to get a job in today's competitive workplace," said Mary Ellen Smith, president and general manager of Microsoft Licensing. "We believe that this type of public-private partnership will play an important role in rebuilding Nevada and the nation's economy by offering immediate access to basic technology literacy and skills training to ultimately improve recipients' employment prospects."

In its role as Microsoft's designated partner for administration of Elevate America in Nevada, DETR will distribute the vouchers on the web at www.nvdetr.org and www.nevadajobconnect.com, to citizens across the state on a first come, first served basis starting today. Various partners for workforce training will be utilized as testing centers for certification after the user completes the on-line training program.

Microsoft announced the "Elevate America" program at the National Governor's Conference in February 2009. The initiative is expected to provide up to 1 million vouchers nationwide for Microsoft e-Learning courses and select Microsoft certification exams at no or low cost to recipients. The program, part of Microsoft's overall Unlimited Potential efforts to improve social and economic opportunities for people, will provide technology training for up to two million people during the next three years.

Microsoft in Nevada

Microsoft Licensing, GP (MSLI), headquartered in Reno, NV since 1997, enables organizations, large and small, to acquire, distribute and utilize Microsoft's vast array of products, including software, hardware and services. MSLI employs approximately 500 professionals in the state of Nevada and supports Microsoft's operations for OEM, Volume Licensing, XBOX and Dynamics throughout North & South America. MSLI was awarded the Governor's Distinguished Business Award in 2007 and 2008 and was voted Greater Reno-Tahoe's Best Place to Work in 2008 and 2009. MSLI contributes more than \$54 million annually to the economic impact in the State of Nevada. MSLI and its employees contribute to the communities in which we live by emphasizing support efforts for education, youth organizations, diversity initiatives and disadvantaged communities to advance their information technology programs. In 2009 MSLI employees donated more than 2,300 volunteer hours and \$250,000 to Northern Nevada charities.

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DETR is comprised of the Employment Security Division, Equal Rights Commission, Rehabilitation Division, the Information Development and Processing Division and the Research and Analysis Bureau. DETR works in partnership with the Nevada JobConnect System to provide training and job placement services to job seekers and to assist employers in hiring practices.