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SOUTH FLORIDA WORKFORCE TO OFFER NO-COST MICROSOFT TRAINING VOUCHERS

Elevate America program to provide free training and certification exams

(MIAMI, June 25, 2010) — In a major public-private partnership with Microsoft Corporation, South Florida Workforce Investment Board is offering free vouchers for online computer training through a program called Microsoft® Elevate America to Miami-Dade and Monroe counties' residents to expand access to basic technology literacy and skills training.

Microsoft® Elevate America and South Florida Workforce is offering 7,000 vouchers available to Monroe and Miami-Dade Counties' residents at no cost to recipients. These vouchers are redeemable for one E-Learning course or certification exam. The E-Learning courses include applications from Microsoft Office Suite: Microsoft Word, Microsoft Excel and Microsoft PowerPoint. These valuable learning tools can be done at self-pace, and at various learning levels. In addition, web development, database management and more courses are also available for IT professionals. Moreover, individuals seeking to be certified on Microsoft Office 2007 and Windows Vista courses offered by Elevate America can take the exams at Certiport Testing Centers. Some sites may require a nominal fee for proctoring the exam.

"This groundbreaking initiative will certainly prepare jobseekers for the demands of this competitive job market," said Rick Beasley, Executive Director of South Florida Workforce.

Florida is the 24 state to participate in Elevate America. Microsoft Corporation announced the launching of Elevate America at the National Governors Association Winter Conference in February of 2009. This initiative is expected to provide up to 1 million vouchers nationwide. This program is a part of Microsoft's overall efforts to provide technology training for up to 2 million people during the next three years.

Elevate America's Florida vouchers will be available through August 21, 2010, or while supplies last. The vouchers and certification exam vouchers must be activated and used by this date. There are no income requirements to participate in Elevate America.

For more information on Microsoft® Elevate America, please contact South Florida Workforce at 305-594-7615 or visit www.southfloridaworkforce.com.

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