



HARNESSING TECHNOLOGY & CHANGING LIVES

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

CompTia Educational Foundation Recognizes Three Stride Center Graduates with IT Merit Awards

Continuing education scholarships reflect industry's ongoing need for skilled IT professionals

REDWOOD CITY, Calif. -- September 14, 2009 -- The Stride Center, in partnership with Goodwill Industries, announced today that three recent graduates, John Dunovan, Kimberly James and Dale Smith, have earned the CompTia Educational Foundation's prestigious CompTia IT Merit Award from for their academic achievements. In conjunction with these awards, the recipients were given a \$250.00 cash scholarship to use toward continuing their IT education.

"Despite the soft economy, IT job opportunities remain plentiful," said Dennis Zimmerman, Executive Director, for the CompTia Educational Foundation. "Certification programs, like the ones offered by The Stride Center, prepare individuals with the knowledge they need to compete for today's high paying IT positions. We congratulate all of The Stride Center graduates and wish them continued success in their careers."

"The Stride Center applauds the award winners for their outstanding work and well-deserved recognition," stated Joe McKinley, director of training for The Stride Center. "CompTia Educational Foundation's ongoing support of IT education has made it possible for individuals like John, Kim and Dale to successfully prepare for their new career in the professional IT field."

Each year, participants in CompTia Education to Careers (E2C) are eligible to nominate one person who has earned his or her CompTia certification and is pursuing additional IT designations -- especially if he or she is from an under-represented population such as the economically disadvantaged, dislocated workers, at risk youth, transitioning US veterans, and disabled individuals.

"Working with The Stride Center changed my life by giving me the professional training I needed to overcome some very challenging circumstances," said Dale Smith, information specialist and CompTia IT Merit Award winner. "Knowledge really is power. The Stride Center's programs use technology as the equalizer, closing the divide between the have and have-nots."

About The Stride Center

The Stride Center is a nonprofit social venture that harnesses the power of technology to transform lives, providing low income men and women with IT Training programs that teach new career and life skills. Through ReliaTech, a green technology operation that repairs,

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refurbishes and resells computers, The Stride Center brings technology to Bay Area communities, helps sustain its programs and reduces environmental impact. For more information, please call (510) 234-1300 or visit www.stridecenter.org and <http://www.reliatech.org/>.

About the CompTia Merit Award Program

The CompTia IT Merit Award program underscores the importance of technology training and development in today's workforce. CompTia has endowed \$1 million to its Educational Foundation, enabling it to fund the IT Merit Awards. Each quarter, the program awards \$250.00 in cash to individuals who have obtained CompTia certification at an accredited training center and are pursuing additional IT training. For more information on the certification program or the awards program, visit the Educational Foundation's website www.comptia-ef.org.

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