

Microsoft awards more than \$190,000 in cash and software to Street Tech

Several elected officials – including Congressman George Miller – join nonprofit to celebrate grant during July 7 graduation event led by local elected officials, Street Tech staff members and students, Microsoft executives and community leaders

San Pablo, Calif. — June 29, 2005 — In an effort to promote technology education and inclusion and help eliminate the digital divide in the San Francisco Bay area, Microsoft has awarded a grant to Street Tech worth more than \$190,000 in cash and software. This community investment is part of Microsoft's Unlimited Potential (UP) program, the company's global program focused on promoting digital inclusion and increased access to technology skills training in communities underserved by technology.

"We are committed to providing our students with a learning environment that is state-of-the-art," said Street Tech Executive Director Barrie Hathaway. "The support we are receiving from Microsoft is helping us to move our programs and services to the next level. Our students and staff now have access to the absolute best in software and training materials."

Street Tech was established in 1999 to provide cutting-edge information technology (IT) training and professional skills to low-income and underserved adults in the San Francisco Bay area. The nonprofit offers four distinct training pathways for technology certification – including A+ Certification, Microsoft Certified Professional (MCP) and Microsoft Certified Systems Administrator (MCSA) certification and Computer Apprenticeship Training (CAT) – and students are required to participate in a community "give back" program following training completion.

Recently, Street Tech has furthered its mission of "bringing technology to the streets" through the 2004 opening of ReliaTech, a for-profit business designed to put graduating Street Tech students to work by offering computer maintenance and repair services to the public, businesses, schools and nonprofit organizations.

Microsoft's UP grant will be used by Street Tech to help implement a series of MCP training programs and expand one of Street Tech's computer refurbishment programs, which provides reconditioned computers to local nonprofits, schools and churches.

"Microsoft has long believed that inside each and every person there is great potential – for many, however, economic and cultural issues impede their abilities to harness this power and achieve their goals," said Microsoft Northern California District General Manager Laura Wallace. "That is why we created our Unlimited Potential program, which has brought more than \$8 million in software to California nonprofits in our 2004 fiscal year alone. Street Tech works tirelessly to help residents in the San Francisco Bay area improve their quality of life and realize their full potential. Giving the resources is the easy part, but working hands-on to help people transform their lives like Street Tech does everyday is where the real magic occurs. We feel privileged to be a part of these efforts."

A July 7 IT training program graduation will be held at 6:30 p.m. at the San Pablo Events Center, 2300 El Portal Drive. In addition to Street Tech students and staff, several elected officials – including Congressman George Miller (D-Martinez) and Neku Pogue, district representative for Senate President Pro Tempore Don Perata (D-CA) – will join Microsoft Northern California District Manager Laura Wallace to express support of meaningful partnerships, like that of Microsoft and Street Tech, which positively impact California's communities.

"Microsoft's generous grant will significantly boost Street Tech's already considerable success in training workers from the Bay Area to meet the demands of the information economy," said Congressman George

Miller (D-Martinez), senior Democrat on the House Education and the Workforce Committee. “The U.S. cannot compete in this fierce global economy without workers who are well prepared for it. Street Tech understands that, and it is working to transform individual lives here in the Bay Area at the same time that it is providing an important example of how to keep our entire economy healthy and competitive. I applaud Street Tech for its important work and I applaud Microsoft for its willingness to expend resources to address this critical national priority.”

Through Unlimited Potential, Microsoft works closely with local organizations to support community-based centers where information technology skills programs are offered. The UP grants of cash and software will provide these organizations with the tools and funding to help hire and train technology instructors, enabling local citizens to obtain the skills needed to succeed in today’s knowledge-based economy. Microsoft has also developed UP curriculum that emphasizes real-world technology applications in several languages. This is a key program to bring the benefits of technology and related skills to 250 million people by 2010.

"On behalf of the entire community, I want to express our gratitude to Microsoft for their generous contribution to Street Tech," said Senate President Pro Tempore Don Perata (D-CA). “Technology proficiency is a skill prized by the vast majority of employers in today’s competitive job market. By making this skill attainable through technology training programs, Street Tech and Microsoft are going beyond the call of duty to improve the employment prospects and overall independence of the underserved in the Bay Area community.”

This grant to Street Tech is part of more than \$118 million in cash, software and curriculum donated to community technology centers through the Microsoft Unlimited Potential program. To date, the program supports more than 19,000 community technology centers in 89 countries throughout Africa, Asia, Europe, Latin America, the Middle East and North America. A complete list of recipients can be found at <http://www.microsoft.com/mscorp/citizenship/overview/uprecipients.asp>.

About Street Tech

Street Tech is a nonprofit organization offering low-cost computer training, certification and job placement for deserving adults (ages 18 and up) from disadvantaged communities in the San Francisco Bay Area. Established in 1999, Street Tech is committed to taking technology to the streets and bridging the digital divide by offering an advanced technology and professional development training program to at-risk and disadvantaged adults. For more information, visit www.streettech.org.

About Microsoft Community Affairs

Microsoft and its employees have long recognized the importance of being engaged in supporting communities around the world. Last year the company donated \$48 million in cash \$362 million in software to 8,000 nonprofit organizations. While a majority of the company’s community investments are made in support of Unlimited Potential, a global program that supports IT skills development in community technology centers or telecenters, the company also makes software available to improve the use of technology by nonprofit organizations. Microsoft products are available to qualified organizations at <http://www.techsoup.org>.

More information on Microsoft’s community investments can be found at <http://www.microsoft.com/unlimitedpotential/>.

About Microsoft

Founded in 1975, Microsoft (NASDAQ “MSFT”) is the worldwide leader in software, services and Internet technologies for personal and business computing. The company offers a wide range of products

and services designed to empower people through great software — any time, any place and on any device.

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