



Metro/Business

Microsoft grants aid training for students at African-American and Hispanic universities

CONTRIBUTED STORY FOR THE PORTLAND OBSERVER

Microsoft Corp. announced grants to 11 African-American and Hispanic universities across the country, the latest in the company's long-standing effort to increase technology access for students of color. The grants, totaling \$440,000 in cash and more than \$1 million in software, will provide more than 150,000 students with benefits such as enhanced information technology curricula, distance learning opportunities and improved access to the Internet. The Hispanic Association of Colleges and Universities (HACU) and the United Negro College Fund (UNCF), in coordination with Microsoft, selected the grant recipients.

African Americans and Hispanics continue to have less access to technology than their Anglo counterparts, which impedes their opportunities for success in the digital economy. According to a recent U.S. Commerce Department study ("Falling Through the Net. Defining the Digital Divide"), Anglo households own computers at a rate roughly twice that of African-American and Hispanic households.

"Technological proficiency is an essential element of success today," said Bruce Brooks, director of community affairs at Microsoft. "By coordinating efforts with these African-American and Hispanic-serving institutions, we can help ensure that students of color have equal access to the resources they need to accomplish great things in today's social and economic marketplace."

These Historically Black Colleges and Universities and Hispanic-serving institutions each will receive \$40,000 in cash, in addition to

software, to bolster technology access for students.

For more than six years, Microsoft Corp. has been committed to helping bridge the digital divide and has created and supported a number of efforts designed to provide equal access to technology across the nation. In the past three years, Microsoft has given more than \$1.73 million (\$19 million in cash and \$154 million in software) to help thousands of organizations, including public libraries, colleges and universities, and community-based nonprofit agencies, provide technology access to underserved communities. Through these efforts, millions of underprivileged individuals across the nation, from children in Boys & Girls clubs to low-income students to Native Americans using technology to preserve their language and culture, now have access to technology and training.

BPA offers \$10,000 reward for toppled tower information

CONTRIBUTED STORY FOR THE PORTLAND OBSERVER

BPA is offering a reward of up to \$10,000 for information leading to the arrest and conviction of individuals who damaged and disabled one of its main transmission lines connecting the Pacific Northwest to the Pacific Southwest the night before New Year's Eve.

People who have information about the incident are urged to call BPA's Crime Witness Hot Line toll free at 1-800-437-2744 or call one of the numbers below:

FBI Bend (541) 389-1202, Deschutes County Sheriff (541) 388-0170, Oregon State Police (503) 375-3555, FBI Portland (503) 552-5346. The identity of informants will be kept confidential.

At 8:53 p.m. Thursday, Dec. 30, BPA lost electrical services on its Celilo-Sylmar 1,000,000 volt direct current intertie line.

Automatic system protection relays isolated the affected transmission line and re-routed the power instantaneously to other power lines, so there was no loss of electrical service.

A maintenance crew - sent to the site to investigate the problem - discovered a transmission tower lying on its side. The crew repaired the tower and had the line back in service by 7:32 p.m. Dec. 31.

The incident occurred near where the transmission line crosses US Highway 20, approximately 37 miles southeast of Bend Ore. And 14 miles northeast of Brothers, Ore. The

Deschutes County Sheriff, Oregon State Patrol and Federal Bureau of Investigation all are involved in the investigation.

"The tower sustained minimal damage and the line itself was not permanently damaged," said Mike Berg, BPA security specialist. "Nevertheless, significant costs were incurred in responding to this emergency. This is the first time in over twenty years that someone has deliberately disabled one of our towers. It was obviously an attempt to cause mayhem on the Northwest Power system and that is why we are taking this criminal act so seriously."

Community court to open in SE Portland

CONTRIBUTED STORY FOR THE PORTLAND OBSERVER

A neighborhood court of justice that provides a swift, effective, and community-based way to sanction and support misdemeanor offenders is coming to Southeast Portland. The new Community Court will hear its first case in February.

Multnomah County's growing Community Court Project strives to reduce quality of life crimes by sentencing low-level offenders in the communities where they

committed their crimes and by providing social service assistance when needed.

Circuit Court Judge Clifford Freeman will preside at the Southeast Community Court on the first and third Thursday of the month at the Brentwood-Darlington Community Center at 7211 SE 62nd Ave. The court will hear misdemeanor cases committed in the East or Southeast Portland police precincts.

At court, each defendant meet with a social service coordinator before talking to the judge. After an extended guilty plea, the defendant is

sentenced. The judge may lecture the defendant, seek input from community members, or ask the defendant how she plans to change her behavior in the future. Often the defendant is referred to social service providers who are on site on court days.

"People involved with criminal activity are often dealing with other problems in their lives," notes Robyn Gregory, the project's coordinator.

"The court offers social service to defendants who need help with a wide range of issues."

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Housing from 1

money can buy, by utilizing better insulation and design you can reduce the amount of heating that you need to do," she says.

As for Wilcox, he says that, after some time off, he may seek work in the Bureau of Planning, as a teacher at the University of Oregon, or as a private developer. He admits that he is leaving in part because he needs more money for himself and his family.

When you work for a non-profit agency, he says, "You walk away with nothing but the satisfaction of having accomplished something."

"I hope he stays active after he leaves Portland Community Design," Harrison says. "He's been a key player in Portland planning and development."

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(Across from Kienow's)

Mayor Vera Katz and the City Council invite you to join them at:

Community Budget Forums for the FY 2000-02 Two Year Budget

The Mayor, City Council members and bureau managers will lead discussions on community priorities. **Please come share your ideas.**

Jan. 31	6-8 PM	Buckman Elementary School, 320 SE 16th
Feb. 5	10-Noon	Multnomah Art Center, 7688 SW Capitol Hwy.
Feb. 5	2-4 PM	Midland Library, 805 SE 122 nd
Feb. 8	6-8 PM	King Facility, 4815 NE 7 th
Feb. 10	6-8 PM	Mallory Hotel, 729 SW 15 th

For more information, call 823-5288, TTY: 823-6868.

Web Site: www.ci.portland.or.us

If you have special needs, please call 823-4519 in advance.

Tenth Annual Cascade Festival of African Films



In celebration of Black History Month

Portland Community College
Cascade Campus
Terrell Hall, Room 122
705 N. Killingsworth
Free parking in campus lots



February 4-
March 4

Thursdays at noon
Fridays and Saturdays at 7:30 p.m.

Opening Night—Friday,
February 4 at 7:30 p.m.

Heritage Africa with Director Kwaw P. Ansah from Ghana

Music by Obo Addy and Okropong at Jefferson High School Auditorium

For more information, call 503-244-6111, ext. 3630

This Portland Community College event is made possible through the generous support of the Regional Arts and Culture Council, the Oregon Council for the Humanities, the Oregon Arts Commission and McMenemy Kennedy School.

Portland Community College