

South Central Michigan Works! and Microsoft Team Up for Workforce Education

Hillsdale, MI: Microsoft has made a corporate commitment to strengthen the U.S. economy and increase global competitiveness by improving access to education and workforce-readiness skills required for twenty-first-century jobs. To support this commitment, Microsoft launched Elevate America, an initiative designed to provide 1 million vouchers for Microsoft E-Learning courses and select Microsoft Certification exams at no cost to recipients. Elevate America will be implemented in cooperation with states across the country as part of the company's overall effort to help train 2 million people over the next three years.

Elevate America is being implemented in South Central Michigan through South Central Michigan Works! The program provides a no-cost opportunity for individuals residing in the 3 counties of Hillsdale, Jackson and Lenawee to increase their technology skills. Vouchers are available and may be utilized to complete Microsoft online courses and Microsoft business certification exams.

Three types of vouchers are available:

Microsoft Office- These vouchers are used to complete online courses for Microsoft Office 2003 or Office 2007 products. These courses are for individuals who use, or will use, these Microsoft products with their work. All of the courses are self paced, so individuals do not have to complete a course in one sitting. Each voucher is good for a set of e-learning courses in one Microsoft product, i.e. Excel, PowerPoint, Word, and Outlook.

Microsoft IT Professional- These vouchers are used to complete online courses for individuals who use, or will use, Microsoft professional information technology applications including server administration, web and application programming, and other professional technical areas. This series of online courses is specifically designed to provide the knowledge and skills necessary to pass Microsoft Technical Certification exams. Each collection of courses is focused on a single Microsoft product, such as Windows Server, SQL Server, Share-Point, and Visual Studio. Each voucher gives you access to one course. Use the link below for a comprehensive list of IT Professional courses.

Vouchers for Microsoft Business Certification Exams are also available upon request. Exams must be taken at a Certiport Testing Center. Vouchers must be used for an exam before April 11, 2010.

For more information about the Microsoft Elevate initiative please contact your local South Central Michigan Works! Service Center at (800) 285 - WORKS!.

- [**Step-by-Step E-Learning Guide**](#)
- [**Frequently Asked Questions**](#)
- [**IT Professional Courses**](#)

If you have any trouble with the above links and/or want to review a list of area colleges and schools providing some of these courses, visit the SCMW! website at http://www.scmw.org/resources/educational_resources.html.