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Press Release

For Immediate Release

Microsoft and Michigan Works! Raise Awareness of the Importance of Information Technology (IT) Skills in Jobs and Education at Learn IT Use IT Forum

Event emphasizes available educational, training and retraining opportunities for Michigan workers through Michigan Works!, Microsoft, and other partners

LANSING, Mich. (May 14, 2009) – Michigan Works! Association, in partnership with Microsoft, will host the **2009 Learn IT Use IT Forum, Wednesday, May 20** at the **East Lansing Marriott at University Place**, in **East Lansing, Mich.** from **10:00 a.m. - 2:30 p.m.**

All Michigan citizens need to keep their technology skills sharp to become successful, regardless of their employment status. Michigan Works!, as part of its overall efforts to strengthen Michigan's workforce, is raising the awareness of the importance of Information Technology (IT) skills in connection with jobs and education.

"It is now more important than ever to offer technology resources and training for Michigan citizens during these tough economic times," said Luann Dunsford, chief executive officer, Michigan Works! Association. "Michigan Works! and our partners are committed to improving Michigan's workforce and we want to ensure that Michigan workers are prepared with the technology skills to compete for high-demand occupations."

During this event, Michigan Works! Association, private sector representatives and partners in education will highlight what Michigan is already doing in order to close the IT skills gap for Michigan citizens. The event will emphasize available educational, training and retraining opportunities that are accessible through Michigan Works!, Microsoft, and other partners.

Microsoft will also discuss their commitment to strengthening the economy and increasing global competitiveness by improving access to education and workforce readiness skills required for 21st century jobs.

Attendees include staff from Michigan Works!, Microsoft, community colleges, universities and partners in education and economic development. The goal of the event is to raise awareness to effectively serve job seekers, existing professionals and students competing in a global marketplace by providing effective technology education and training resources.

"It is our belief that with the right technology tools and skills in place, people can do amazing things," said Marietta Davis, Heartland District general manager, Microsoft. "By partnering with Michigan Works! to provide technology knowledge and training to professionals in the state, it is our hope that we will enhance their careers and allow them to succeed in what is increasingly becoming a technology driven economy."

About Michigan Works! Association

Established in 1987, the Michigan Works! Association fosters high-quality employment and training programs serving employers and workers by providing support activities and a forum for information exchange for Michigan's Workforce Development System. For more information, visit <http://www.michiganworks.org>, or call 517-371-1100.

About Microsoft

Founded in 1975, Microsoft (Nasdaq "MSFT") is the worldwide leader in software, services and solutions that help people and businesses realize their full potential.

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