



For Immediate Release **Contact:** Tiffany Hilson
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Urban League of Central Carolinas receives software grant from Microsoft Meeting job training needs of flailing economy

[Charlotte, NC.] – The Urban League of Central Carolinas (ULCC) is the recipient of grants from Microsoft Corporation in both 2008 and 2009. The 2008 grant donated \$594,545 in software to the organization for use in its workforce development and technology programs. The 2009 grant, worth over \$10,000, allows access to the Microsoft E-Learning Portals which helps the agency enhance its technology skills training.

“Microsoft is an outstanding corporate partner who is spreading digital empowerment to disenfranchised populations in Charlotte. We know the combination of high unemployment and job training will lead to economic recovery. Microsoft is doing its part by partnering with agencies like ours. Microsoft is the “Cadillac” of the industry and we are pleased to offer this level of training to the community.” - Dr. Patrick Graham, President/CEO, ULCC.

ULCC is one of eleven non-profit partners throughout the world who have been selected to participate in the Microsoft Community Learning Portal (MCLP). Others selected include Operation Hope in Los Angeles, Washington, DC, and New York; YarnTeen and Workventures in Sydney; Lumity in Chicago; Sutherland in Chennai; Microsoft Research Institute in Bangalore; Jubilee Women’s Center in Seattle; Jobstart in Toronto; and NetHOPE worldwide.

This new grant provides access to Microsoft Digital Literacy coupled with a whole array of educational and workforce technology, Microsoft Windows and Office Basics e-learning and assessments, and an e-reference library to each of these non-profits.

ULCC is using these grants to expand services to those enrolled in the Professional Adult Empowerment Program (PEP). Many of the individuals who are accessing these services have been downsized because of the devastating economic situation the community is in. The PEP training is part of a new ULCC initiative-*Entrepreneur and Specialized Training Academy (ESTA)- Project Workforce For the Future*. PEP offers Microsoft Office Suite technology training, professional development and financial literacy training to underserved adults. The program also provides home ownership, home maintenance and foreclosure prevention seminars. As the economy continues to shift, enrollment in PEP is increasing. ULCC is dedicated to serving the community.

The Urban League of Central Carolinas, Inc.

Established in 1978, the Urban League of Central Carolinas is an affiliate of the National Urban League. As a long standing pillar in the community, we are dedicated to empowering the community to attain financial stability and social justice in a global economy through education, training and placement. For more information, please call ULCC at 704-373-2256.