



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

July 30, 2010

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**Floridians Encouraged to Take Advantage of Remaining
Free Technology Training**

TALLAHASSEE -- Workforce Florida Inc. is encouraging Floridians to take advantage of the nearly 14,000 free Microsoft vouchers, good for online technology training and certifications, still available through the Microsoft® Elevate America program.

Since Workforce Florida partnered with Microsoft in May to launch Elevate America in Florida, the state's 24 Regional Workforce Boards have distributed more than 26,000 of 40,000 vouchers to Floridians for training and certifications in Microsoft Office Suite courses including Excel, Outlook, Word, PowerPoint and more as well as IT Professional courses designed for those who work or plan to pursue a career in the IT field. The Florida Elevate America vouchers will be issued until August 21, 2010, or while supplies last. All vouchers must be activated by August 21. Training vouchers are good for 12 months after the date of activation. Certification exam vouchers must be activated and used by August 21.

Elevate America is an innovative public-private partnership to provide the technology skills crucial to many businesses and careers. It is part of Workforce Florida's ongoing efforts to provide resources to individuals and employers seeking talent development resources.

- Each training voucher is redeemable for free, online training on one Microsoft Windows Vista or on one of the programs in the Microsoft Office Suite.
- Each testing voucher is redeemable for a Microsoft Business Certification Exam.
- Advanced level online training vouchers are redeemable for training for individuals on technical professional career tracks in areas such as web development or database management.

Florida is among 32 states and the District of Columbia participating in Elevate America, a groundbreaking initiative to prepare workers for the demands of a 21st century

economy. The program is a part of Microsoft's overall efforts to provide technology training for up to 2 million people during the next three years.

Vouchers may be requested while supplies last online at <http://elevateamerica.floridajobs.org/>.

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About Workforce Florida

Workforce Florida Inc. is the statewide workforce investment board led by business and government leaders and charged with policy-setting and oversight of Florida's workforce system, which includes the Agency for Workforce Innovation and 24 Regional Workforce Boards. Its mission is to develop strategies that help Floridians enter, remain and advance in the workforce while supporting economic development priorities and strengthening the state's business climate. Florida's workforce system provided services including job search, referral and placement assistance as well as training to more than 1.7 million job seekers and employers last year. Learn more about Florida's workforce resources and solutions at www.EmployFlorida.com.