



Year Up Announces \$10M Commitment from Microsoft Partnership to make significant impact on closing the Opportunity Divide

Boston, MA — May 3, 2007 — Year Up today announced that Microsoft Corp. will expand its commitment to disadvantaged youth by offering \$10 million in funding, software grants and IT training to the program over the next five years.

"Through this partnership, technology will become more available to the young people we serve, and provide more opportunities for them to prepare themselves for the workforce. In order to provide our corporate partners with a highly qualified, entry-level workforce, our training and education programs must continue to include the most up-to-date technology standards. This collaboration will enable us to ensure that our urban young adults are ready to tackle the workforce head-on," said Gerald Chertavian, Year Up's Founder and CEO.

"This is a perfect fit for Microsoft because we share a passion with Year Up for creating opportunities for young people in technology," said Brian Neirby, Microsoft's General Manager for Small and Mid-Market Business in the New England Region. "We applaud Year Up for the hundreds of success stories it has already created, and we look forward to developing an even stronger partnership with this wonderful organization as it works to close the digital, economic and opportunity divide."

Microsoft's commitment will include the following:

- Establishing Year Up as a Microsoft IT Academy by providing Microsoft software, publications and training to the classroom, with the goal of certification of staff and students. Microsoft IT Academy is a global IT learning solution that connects educators, students, and communities. It helps students during their early information technology experience and offers a life-long learning model of continuous improvement and career development.
- Training Year Up instructors in a Microsoft-based curriculum.
- Providing assistance to students to defray exam and certification costs.
- Hosting student field trips, conferences and trainings at Microsoft's technology centers.
- Expanding Microsoft's employee mentor and volunteer program.
- Providing student apprenticeship opportunities.
- Establishing classroom/alumni multi-media libraries, including subscriptions to Microsoft Developers Network – Academic Alliance.

- Providing financial sponsorship for Year Up events.

Year Up will work directly with Microsoft officials to rollout the partnership and ensure continuity of the curriculum and trainings throughout their learning communities for both current students and alumni.

About Year Up

Year Up is a one-year, intensive education and training program that provides urban young adults, ages 18-24, with a high support, high expectation model that combines marketable job skills, stipends, apprenticeships, college credit, a behavior management system and several levels of support to place them on a viable path to economic self-sufficiency. Equal emphasis is placed on developing the professional skills required in today's workplace, such as effective communication, leadership and teamwork. With sites in Boston, New York City, Providence and Washington, D.C., Year Up is expected to serve more than 500 students in 2007. Through its national expansion plans, Year Up will serve more than 10,000 students by 2016. Year Up's 70+ corporate partners include Bank of America, Children's Hospital, Fidelity, CVS/pharmacy, Freddie Mac, Marsh & McLennan Companies, MIT, Partners HealthCare, Putnam Investments, and State Street Corporation.

More information is available at www.yearup.org.

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. Microsoft now has 500 direct employees and 850 business partners who employ tens of thousands of others in Massachusetts.

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