

The Urban Educator

BUILDING PATHWAYS TO PROSPERITY

URBAN ED EXPANDS PROGRAMS TO LIL' BITTIES

Urban Ed is always looking for innovative ways to combine learning and technology and this past summer we launched a new program for youth ages 5-7 to help the "Lil' Bitties" gain new knowledge with computers and reinforce learning for pre-K to 1st grade education. We know that younger youth are fascinated by computers and if they begin their technical training early they will experience greater success in school in later years because of the educational reinforcements delivered in a fun and creative way.

Because of our experience with technology training and youth, Urban Ed decided to try something new for the

summer and expanded to serving the younger disadvantaged youth, providing them with computer-related enrichment training in four key areas:

- ★ getting to know a computer by identifying the basic parts of a computer, navigating around a computer, and understanding things you can do on a computer

- ★ number skills and counting money by utilizing the computer for counting, addition, and subtraction for 1, 2 and 5

- ★ computer graphics via colors and shapes by utilizing the computer to develop basic shapes (circles, squares, rectangles, etc) and filling them in with basic colors

- ★ introduction to word processing by utilizing the computer to learn keyboarding, to spell names of youth and family members and compiling a basic descriptive sentence

One of the main reasons for expanding to the younger age group stems from our regular program, where we find that often times our teens and older youth are left with the responsibility of caring for their younger siblings or in some cases their own child and this childcare barrier impacts attendance and retention in our programs. Will we continue this program in the fall? We'll gauge its success after the summer and make a determination then. ★

A TRUE EXAMPLE OF TRANSFORMING LIVES

In 2004 at the age of 23 a young woman got into a lot of trouble for fighting. Her anger landed her two years probation as well as spending some time in jail for the destruction of the personal property of another. While she was on probation she was shifted through a number of programs within the "system", none of which she felt was meaningful for her to change. She participated in the programs because it was a stipulation of her probation and therefore she continued to act as if she didn't care. Nearly a year later, she was then sent to a program called V.O.T.E., Vocational Opportunities Training and Education, a program created by the Court Services and Offender Supervision Agency to help ex-

offenders maximize the use of available resources to address their needs. The purpose of the program is to better match the wants and needs of offenders to help them re-establish themselves with employment and/or educational objectives therefore reducing recidivism. The program actually asked this young woman what she liked to do instead of making her do what they wanted her to do. She mentioned that she likes computers and would love a job working with them. She started out attending a computer course through CSOSA's V.O.T.E program and after successful completion she was referred to Urban Ed, Inc. After about three months, this young woman received her first certification

in Microsoft Word 2003 and continued to advance herself within the computer field taking additional technology courses and gaining additional certifications. This bright and determined young woman is now one of Urban Ed's lead instructors helping others like herself become certified and get their lives back on the right track. Meet Ericka Holsey, one of the many successes for Urban Ed. ★



Ericka Holsey, an Urban Ed success

Urban Ed, Inc., is a community development organization whose mission is to provide education, information and skill development to low-income people of color to foster economic independence.

DOING BUSINESS WITH A SOCIAL AIM

Why do business with the corporate giants when you can do business locally and help disadvantaged people prosper? That's what Urban Ed Enterprises, Inc. is doing. A new information technology firm, Urban Ed Enterprises is a for profit partner of Urban Ed providing internships and apprenticeship opportunities to the graduating students of Urban Ed's *Pathways to Prosperity* program. The idea of starting a profit generating firm grew out of the strategic plan of Urban Ed in which its leadership set the goal of determining and implementing one wealth venture that could help with the funding stability of the nonprofit. The firm, incorporated in November 2006 offers a full line of IT services to individual home users, small businesses and corporate and government contractors. Women and minority-owned, Urban Ed Enterprises shares space with Urban Ed making the direct bridge between the training and hands-on experience seamless. So the next time you have a sick PC, need an upgrade, network assistance, website development services or even a custom built PC call Urban Ed Enterprises. Doing business with us does the community good. ★



"Urban Ed Enterprises' staff and leadership have excellent communications skills and their reliability and integrity are above question."
Pastor David McNeilly, Riverdale Presbyterian Church

For more info visit
www.UrbanEdEnterprises.com

HELP URBAN ED MAKE A DIFFERENCE

For those of us now working in a stable career, think about what it felt like to secure that first job at the beginning of your path for independence. To go to college or get some skills and feel confident that you could take on the "real world", forever transformed your life and set the stage for ongoing sustainability. Within our communities, many of our young people lack the skills to be competitive in the job market because we have truancy rates of 49%. Many of our young adults lack the resources to attend college or take high end professional development live in poverty. Urban Ed addresses the problem by bringing to our disenfranchised population the same quality level of educational resources and government and corporations expertise that the employees, thus affording the same level of access that will also forever transform their lives.



Want you join our **2007 Call to Action** campaign! Your contribution will help in the following ways:

- ★ A \$25 or \$50 contribution will provide a textbook for one student for our technical training programs.
- ★ A \$100 contribution will provide a refurbished computer system with current hardware and software standards for one youth for home use and remote studying or pay for one international exam voucher.
- ★ A \$500 contribution will provide a stipend for transportation during training, all textbooks and all international exam vouchers for one student.
- ★ A \$1,400 contribution will provide an entire year of web-based and self-study training for 120 students from any location within the region.
- ★ A \$1,900 contribution will sponsor all costs for one student to complete our industry-specific self-sufficiency training. ★

JOIN INNOVATION

You can join our efforts in a number of ways:

- Serve on our Advisory Committee currently working on a city-wide strategy to increase corporate participation in the placement of the disadvantaged who are trained and certified in technology
- Help teach high-end IT courses
- Host a meeting where youth deliver business presentations in a corporate setting
- Hire our participants!
- Be a guest speaker on any topic that will help empower and inspire our participants
- **Federal Employees: We're a part of the Combined Federal Campaign. Make your pledge to Urban Ed - CFC# 34840** ★

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