



City of Cincinnati

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I.T. Village Youth Lab Program Celebrates Third Graduation

City Celebrates Innovative IT Program; Graduates Receive Computers/Printers

Today as a part of the City of Cincinnati's commitment to economic and workforce development, twenty students between the ages of 12 and 18 participated in a graduation ceremony from the third I.T. Village Youth Lab designed to teach them important computer skills. Supported by Dell, Inc. and Uptown Consortium, the two I.T. Village Youth Labs brought technology and expert information technology (IT) business practitioners together with youth participants. The program helped students gain practical, interactive information technology skills necessary for academic and career success. The program has graduated 54 students thus far. Milt Stegall, former Cincinnati Bengal and Winnipeg Blue Bomber provided words of encouragement to the graduates and their families.

The six-week information technology program sought to develop students for the work environment the City is working to create. "As we continue to develop our neighborhoods and buildings, we must also develop our people, especially our youth," said City Manager Milton Dohoney, Jr. "A key path to growing the City of Cincinnati revolves around preparing tomorrow's workforce to take those newly created jobs with programs such as the I.T. Youth Village. We are proud of these young people and are expecting great things from them."

Nineteen IT professionals from the City/County Regional Computer Center volunteered their time and expertise to deliver a comprehensive, six-week IT course based on Dell's successful Techknow program. As a partner in the program, Dell, Inc. provided each graduate a computer, a printer, and other technology accessories at the graduation ceremony.

"One of the primary goals of the program was to provide young people access to information technology so that they could learn marketable skills, find required information, and participate in the global online community safely," said Margo Springs, Director of the Regional Computer Center. "This program challenged the students to utilize their newly acquired technical and analytical skills for their future educational career paths and to look to their mentors as resources."

The program was also made possible with the support of the Avondale Community Pride Center, Cincinnati Youth Collaborative, Dell Computer, Inc., Sogeti USA LLC, and the Urban League of Greater Cincinnati.

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