

# ADVISORY

Microsoft, Inc. unveiled on February 22, 2009 its **Elevate America** program, a job training effort aimed at "giving technical skills to as many as 2 million Americans over the next three years."

The announcement was made by Pamela Passman, Microsoft's VP for Corporate Affairs during the Winter Meeting of the National Governors Association in Washington, D.C.

The program features:

- Expanded access to basic technological literacy and skills training;
- Intermediate technology skills training courses, instructor-led and online, plus selected certification exams; and,
- Access to new web portal that will help guide individuals to training that positions them for success in a knowledge economy.

Microsoft offers resources that are immediately available at either no cost or low cost to any individual to help meet the education and training needs for today's jobs.

Microsoft is working with state and local governments and hopes to offer 1 million vouchers for e-learning and certification classes. The investment also includes cash grant and software donations to community-based organizations to enhance their technology capacity to deliver these programs.

At the National Governors Association Winter Meeting, governors cited a study made by the Society for Human Resources Management showing urgent need for labor in the fields of science, mathematics and technology and that nearly 30% of human resource managers sourced foreign skilled labor to fill the gap.

Individuals and organizations interested in knowing more about the program are advised to visit <http://www.microsoft.com/elevateamerica>. END