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**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE  
June 21, 2010**

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### **State partners with Microsoft to offer free technology training**

Technology is the driving force in today's global economy and computer proficiency has become a necessity. Thanks to an innovative program from Microsoft, Alabamians have the opportunity to learn crucial computer skills for the jobs of the future.

Alabama has joined forces with Microsoft Elevate America program to provide vouchers for online technology training and certification to individuals across the state at no cost. Alabamians ages 16 and older are eligible to receive the vouchers which are available on a first-come, first-served basis through the Alabama Career Center System until August 11.

To obtain a voucher, an individual must be registered on Alabama Job Link (AJL). Anyone who is not registered may do so on-line from any computer at <https://joblink.alabama.gov/ada/> or by going to a career center for registration assistance. The process is simple and takes about 20 minutes.

Each training voucher is redeemable for free, online training on one of the programs in the Microsoft Office Suite or on Microsoft Windows Vista. Each testing voucher is redeemable for a Microsoft Business Certification Exam. Only participating two-year colleges are designated testing sites for the certification exams. 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.

For more information about the program, including career center listings and test sites, go to [www.owd.alabama.gov](http://www.owd.alabama.gov) and click on the "Elevate America" icon on the left. Open the door to new opportunities today through Elevate America.

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