MICROSOFT IT ACADEMY

WHAT IS THE MICROSOFT IT ACADEMY?

Provides a range of official Microsoft online courses and learning resources covering subjects from digital literacy foundation skills to business skills to advanced networking and programming skills.

WHY FUTURE READY TECHNOLOGY SKILLS?

1 out of 2 jobs today require information technology (IT) skills. In less than 10 years, this number will increase to 3 out of every 4 jobs requiring IT skills. (IDC, 2011)

A nationwide job search on one popular job board (indeed.com) shows more than 7,000 open, unfilled, advertised jobs in Washington (January 2013) requiring Microsoft skills and certifications.

WHY WASHINGTON LIBRARIES?

Libraries play an important role in citizen re-skilling for the 21st century workforce. They serve a broad array of people who come to their local libraries to find resources, get help searching for jobs, apply online, and develop resumes. The next step is to help Washingtonians learn basic computer skills through the Microsoft IT Academy.

Washington libraries serve roughly 6.7 million citizens. If only 1% of these citizens participate in IT Academy through libraries, Microsoft training and certification resources would reach approximately 69,000 residents.

If 5% participate, then approximately 345,000 citizens would have access to 21st century skills development. (Washington State Library, 2013)

IT Academy courses would be available through public, community college, and tribal libraries.

The Washington State Library will facilitate this project through some 427 library locations for approximately $676,368 per year (estimated retail price).

"The Microsoft IT Academy delivered through Washington libraries is a no-brainer. The return on investment of state funds is astounding; an investment of $1.5 million will yield $44 million if Washington's libraries were to pay full price. There will be no direct charge to people for IT training. Libraries are ready and capable of taking on this project. People are used to coming to their libraries for assistance."

Secretary of State Kim Wyman

IT Academy Access Through Washington Libraries:
(includes 427 library locations)

	Per Year Investment	Per 2013 - 2015 Biennium Investment	Total Per Biennium Investment
IT Academy Investment	$676, 368	$1,352,736	
			$1,543,000
Library Deployment Investment	$95,000	$190,000	

WHY THE MICROSOFT IT ACADEMY MAKES SENSE

Return on Investment! The total combined value of the IT Academy benefits for all Washington State library patrons and library staff is approximately $44 million per biennium based on a comparison of what individual library locations would need to pay if purchasing all IT Academy benefits on a 'per branch' basis.

Offers a much needed resource that enables libraries to help patrons and staff achieve valuable Microsoft certifications.

Delivers **equal access to computer technology skills** at no cost, to every library patron.

By investing in IT Academy for library branches statewide, Washington State would become home to the **largest library globally to deliver Microsoft training and certification resources** to all library patrons, librarians, and library staff members.