



community technology centers' network

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National Community Technology Conference Explores the Power of People and Technology

SEATTLE, WA - Five hundred community technology and community development leaders from across the country and around the world have gathered in Seattle, WA to explore the power of people and technology to build connected communities. The annual meeting of the Community Technology Centers' Network, held June 11-13, is the largest national gathering of community technology organizations, programs, and experts addressing technology access, information resources and applications for underserved communities.

"It is no longer a question that community technology has progressed from a small movement of committed individuals, working to provide technology access to underserved communities, to a powerful national force for addressing broader issues," states Erroll Reese, CTCNet Board Chair. "What is a question is how we move past the debate between digital divide and digital opportunity to weigh basic access versus innovation, what's available online versus how it's accessed, and who we represent versus who we actually engage in deliberations around using technology to meet a wide range of human needs and social priorities."

"Community technology centers and programs encompass a wide range of approaches include partnerships and collaborations among nonprofit and faith-based groups, foundations, government agencies, businesses, and academia to address issues such as education and literacy, workforce development and job training, business and economic development, health and public safety, and housing," according to Kavita Singh, CTCNet Executive Director, "Our field provides a means for empowering individual lives and a voice for communities to engage a broad set of perspectives to embrace both technology innovation and effective programs."

Founded in 1990, CTCNet is a national nonprofit membership organization representing over 1000 community technology centers and programs. Member organizations provide access to, training on, and support for information and communications technologies (ICT) in underserved areas that strengthen individuals, families, neighborhoods, and communities.

Microsoft Corporation is the premier sponsor for the 2004 Annual CTCNet Conference. Additional sponsorship provided by Hewlett-Packard, Education Development Corporation, Ford Foundation, SimDesk, TechFoundation, and the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services Compassion Capital Fund. Conference planning partners include the Alliance for Technology Access, Puget Sound Alliance for Community Technology (PSACT), and PolicyLink.

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