



Center Links Residents with Employers

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(Washington, DC) — The Gateway @ Edgewood Terrace has become a hub of training and jobs for the residents of its Washington, DC neighborhood. The Neighborhood Networks Center provides participants with office computer training, career development services, and job placement services.

Located in the Edgewood Terrace apartment complex, the center offers a 12-week Computer and Office Skills Employment Program. Residents receive 120 hours of hands-on training in Microsoft Office, supplemented with 156 hours of vocational evaluation, personal and professional enhancement, career exploration, and job placement. The Gateway course curricula has been reviewed and approved by the Microsoft Corporation, and is offered at little or no cost to program participants.

The center delivers a comprehensive package of computer skills training leading to an industry-recognized professional skills certificate that significantly increases employment prospects. It has developed partnerships with local businesses to help train residents. For example, Bell Atlantic provides participants with specialized computer training that leads to a job on the Bell Atlantic customer service team.

The program's success can be seen in its 56 graduates, 55 of whom have found employment with Bell Atlantic or other employers identified through the center's job development division. An additional 22 program participants have earned academic scholarships to The Catholic University of America.

The \$300,000 start-up costs for the center were part of a \$25 million dollar HUD Property Disposition Grant that included the substantial rehabilitation of the Edgewood Terrace property. The center's current annual operating budget totals \$1.4 million dollars. Corporations, foundations, and local governments provide help fund the budget.

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