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May 24, 2010

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WorkSource to Offer Microsoft® Technology Training Vouchers

Floridians will receive no-cost training and certification through the Microsoft Elevate America® program

Jacksonville, May 24, 2010 – WorkSource is working with Workforce Florida Inc., the Agency for Workforce Innovation and Microsoft® as part of an innovative public-private partnership to provide free technology training to individuals across the state. Microsoft will donate 35,000 vouchers for no-cost, online technology training and certification through any of Florida’s 24 Regional Workforce Boards. The estimated government rate value for the donated vouchers is \$2.1 million. The market rate for each voucher is about \$85.

Florida will receive 15,500 E-Learning vouchers, 15,500 Business Certification Exam vouchers and 4,000 IT Professional vouchers. WorkSource, serving Northeast Florida, will receive 2,202 training vouchers: 975 E-Learning vouchers, 975 Business Certificate Exam vouchers and 252 IT Professional vouchers. The vouchers can be redeemed through WorkSource by any jobseeker or worker in the region.

Each training voucher is redeemable for one E-Learning course or Certification exam. E-Learning courses, available online, are self-paced and offer beginning and intermediate training on Microsoft Windows, Vista or on one of the programs in the Microsoft Office Suite. IT Professional vouchers are also offered for courses tailored to technical professional career tracks in areas such as web development or database management. Certification exams must be taken at Certiport Testing Centers. The list of regional Certiport testing centers with pricing for tests can be found at http://www.worksourcefl.com/jobseekers/educational_opportunities.aspx.

Vouchers will be available from May 24 through August 21, while supplies last. All vouchers must be activated by August 21. E-Learning vouchers are good for 12 months after the date of activation. Certification exam vouchers must be activated and used by the August 21 date.

“Elevate America is a great opportunity for employees and businesses in our community,” said Bruce Ferguson, President of WorkSource. “These vouchers will give our workforce training to compete for jobs that are increasingly technical in nature. As the economy recovers, workers will be putting these skills to work on the job.”

Florida is the 18th state, and one of the 26 states, to participate in Elevate America, a groundbreaking initiative to prepare workers for the demands of a 21st Century economy. More states are expected to launch Elevate America initiatives by the end of May.

WorkSource (First Coast Workforce Development, Inc.) is responsible for providing a trained workforce to employers in Baker, Clay, Duval, Nassau, Putnam & St. Johns Counties. WorkSource connects job seekers in transition with training and jobs and supports economic development through workforce preparation, playing a key role in attracting new business and helping companies expand in Northeast Florida. ###