

RMCC is Certiport Testing Center

RMCC is a Certiport Testing Center for the recently announced partnership between the Department of Workforce Services and Microsoft to offer free Microsoft software training and certification to Arkansans.

Microsoft launched the Elevate America Initiative in an effort to enhance the technical job skills of Americans, thus increasing their workforce readiness. As part of the public-private partnership, DWS is partnering with Microsoft to launch the Microsoft Elevate America Initiative in Arkansas. As a result, Arkansas will receive the following free vouchers for online training and certification:

- **6,000 Business Worker E-Learning Vouchers**, which provide online training on how to use Microsoft Office 2003 or Windows Vista and Office 2007 software such as Excel, Word, Outlook, etc.
- **1,500 IT Professional E-Learning Vouchers**, which are for IT professionals who are interested in advanced training for careers in areas such as web development and database management. Courses include development software such as Windows Server 2008, SQL Server 2008, Visual Studio 2005, etc.
- **6,000 Business Certification Exam Vouchers** for those who want to become certified in a particular Office program such as Excel, Word, Outlook, etc.

Microsoft is providing 1 million vouchers nationwide at no cost as part of its effort to train 2 million people over three years.

Arkansas must distribute the 13,500 vouchers by Aug. 22. Those wanting to only go through the E-Learning series must activate their voucher by Aug. 22 but will have 12 months to access the training once their voucher has been activated by going to the Microsoft Elevate America Web site. Training can be done from any PC that has Internet access, preferably Internet Explorer 6.0 or higher.

Those using the certification exam vouchers will receive a no-cost exam in one program, such as Excel, Word, Outlook, etc. in either Office 2003 or Office 2007. The exam vouchers come pre-activated, and the exams must be taken by Aug. 22 at a Certiport Testing Center. The Arkansas Association of Two-Year Colleges and Goodwill Industries of Arkansas are partnering with DWS to provide this testing. A nominal Certiport Testing Location proctoring fee may apply.

In addition to the vouchers for the Office and IT Professional products, Microsoft offers E-Learning for those individuals who need basic computer skills. This training, which covers basic computer skills, computer security and how to use the Internet, is available for free. A voucher is not required. To access this training, visit www.microsoft.com/elevateamerica. The vouchers will be distributed online on a first-come, first-served basis and are available to all Arkansans. To request a voucher, go to www.elevateamerica.ar.gov.

Call RMCC at 479-394-7622 and speak to Phillip Wilson or Kandy Page for more information regarding Certiport Testing.