

## **Deleting the Digital Divide: All 4 Detroit**

*Harmony Point Information Technology Center and the Michigan Black Chamber of Commerce will co - host an event for Detroit area business leaders and decision makers to inform them of the launch of citywide initiative to empower under-served Detroit citizens to achieve economic independence and social equity through an innovative IT training and certification program. Attendees will see a demonstration of the training process, learn of incentives available at the federal, state, and local levels of government to encourage businesses to hire Harmony Point certified specialists, and participate in a survey on the IT training needs of businesses of all sizes. The event occurs the evening of Thursday, May 15, 2015.*

May 11, 2015 (FPRC) -- "Detroit Deleting the Digital Divide: All 4 Detroit" is a public, private IT workforce development training and job placement partnership focused on "commodifying" under-served Detroit residents by providing IT training, certification, and job placement over the next 12 months.

On Thursday, May 14, 2015 from 6 to 9 p.m. at the Madison House, over 130 employers and decision makers will share their perspective about 21st Century workforce needs, and learn about local, State and Federal resources in place to train Detroiters in IT careers. The event will feature an electronic "Digital Divide" survey. The polling results will be presented the next day to the Federal Reserve Banks of Chicago. Harmony Point ITC will present the data during a National City Exchange of Strategies. The think tank will include subject matter experts from Detroit, Baltimore, Charlotte, Cleveland and Philadelphia. Alicia R. Jones, local urban digaratti and CEO of Harmony Point will present the Detroit Deleting the Digital Divide model as part of the group's focus on the topic of Broadband and Digital Technology: Infrastructure for the Future.

The employer forum. Sponsored by Bizdom Inc., will feature addresses by MEDC Skilled Trades Training Funds, Community Ventures, The Small Business Agency and the United States Department of Commerce MBDA. In addition to the featured speakers, attendees will learn about All 4 Detroit's objective to help Detroit residents become world-class citizens and globally competitive IT professionals. Harmony Point ITC is an integral part of the plan because their training system targets unemployed, underemployed, disabled, veterans, dislocated workers, adjudicated youth and adults and economically disadvantaged residents of Detroit.

"At Harmony ITC, our innovative training process targets empowering urban citizens with the knowledge, skills, and tools needed to attain economic equality and freedom", stated Dr. Anthony Ingram, Ph.D, and Chief Operating Officer of the organization.

Harmony Point ITC's training will include IT Certification in industry-specific Cyber Security; CISSP Certification training, Microsoft Certification training, Java, A+; Computer Repair Certification training, and Certified Internet Webmaster certification; CIW training and Healthcare IT Training for the program participants.

"Harmony Point ITC has proven Detroiters can be trained to meet the demands for a 21st Century workforce. The outcomes of this collaboration will lead to a win/win resolution for everyone.

Corporations, municipalities, parents, students, educators and schools win by transforming urban residents historically overlooked into globally competitive world-class citizens. The outcome will be an increase in the quality of life for hundreds of Detroit residents annually,” said Ken Harris, President of the Michigan Black Chamber of Commerce.

Harmony Point ITC’s office is located at The Chrysler House, 719 Griswold Street, Suite 920, Detroit, Michigan 48226. IT certification training is available morning, afternoon, evening and in weekend sessions. The 17-week classes will begin in May 18, 2015. Harmony Point ITC also provides a battery of professional development workshops in adult literacy, financial literacy, corporate etiquette, conflict resolution and more. The first Detroit Deleting the Digital Divide training is scheduled for June 8, 2015. For more information, call 313-920-0190.

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