

Urban League gets Microsoft millions

Special to Sentinel-Voice
CHICAGO (NNPA) — Microsoft understands the importance of technology job skills in today's downsizing economy.

In November, reports showed that the U.S. shed about 533,000 jobs and unemployment is at 15-year high at 6.7 percent. People who once felt their jobs were secure are now seeing them slip away. And according to reports by the U.S. Labor Department jobless figures for African-Americans totaled a staggering 10.6 percent in November, compared to 4.3 percent for White Americans. Now more than ever, during these economically rough

times, it's important that people have the skills necessary to stay competitive.

"It's our goal at Microsoft to make sure that everyone has access to develop the technology skills needed to compete in today's work environment," said Shelley Stern, Microsoft's citizenship director for the Central Region.

"One of the Chicago Urban League's goals is to connect low-wage workers and people with little or no work experience to good-paying jobs," said Cheryl R. Jackson president and CEO, Chicago Urban League.

"We provide access to training in fastgrowing fields

such as information and communications technology. In Chicago's underserved communities, business owners and aspiring entrepreneurs need support to drive innovation and create economic opportunities for themselves and jobs for others."

The organization has worked to address these challenges through projectNEXT, which is the Urban League's economic development program launched in 2007. The Urban

League is providing entrepreneurship and workforce development programs, expanding commercial real-estate development opportunities, and advocating for improved educational resources in the African-American community.

Through its Unlimited Potential grant, Microsoft has donated more than \$2.6 million in software and cash to help fund digital literacy and computer skills programs within projectNEXT.

Males

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Where is the help from those with the money?"

In Mississippi, 46.9 percent of Black males are uninsured, compared with 25.3 percent of White males. And, 23.5 percent of Black males in the three-state region don't have a high school diploma. Citing U.S. Bureau of Justice statistics, the report says that Black male homicide rates were 8.3 times higher than White males. Black-on-Black offenses accounted for 94 percent of the homicides between 1976 and 2005.

Who will stand up for the South?

Crothers cited organizations such as the New York-based 21st Century Foundation, as a model of what can be done in the Mid South to address the problem.

The 21st Century Foundation provides grants for strategies and programs geared toward issues affecting Black males.

"Where is the outrage? It seems like we are 'ragged-out.' The crisis facing Black men and boys is becoming a part of the culture," said Rev. Alfonso Wyatt, 21st Century board member. Over the next five years, 21st Century plans to fund and/or incubate Black Men and Boys research and action.

Sedrick Muhammad mentors Black boys in New Orleans through his Models for Success program. "There is a lack of consistent and effective programs for our young men in the South due in part to lack of funding. Without being connected to resources, programs decline because there aren't a lot of high industries in this area to feed the initiatives."

Dr. Naccaman Williams says in the foreword of the

report, "The indicators of disparity are sounding an alarm."

Concludes Crothers, "We recommend more investment in research and data, an increase in public knowledge, the convening of state advocacy institutions around local policies, and that leaders work together. Action is needed."

Jesse Muhammad writes for the Final Call.

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Eller

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cious, unjustified and unreasonable, and so outrageous as to be none enduring in a civilized society," the lawsuit says. Police put Eller at risk of great bodily harm and did not seek or provide him with medical treatment, the lawsuit adds. All of the squad cars involved had videotaping equipment and a deputy chief ordered that the tapes be retrieved following Eller's arrest, the lawsuit claims.

But it says the tapes turned over to the defense don't show what happened, and alleges the officers "acted or may have acted separately or in concert, to conceal, divert or destroy potential evidence of the excessive force."

Garcia described the lawsuit's claims as tactics to "distort the facts." "Carl had been drinking, driving erratically, and he attacked two officers," he said.

Garcia said that while some squad cars responding were equipped with cameras, the car belonging to the first officers on the scene did not.

Eller was one of the Vikings' celebrated "Purple People Eaters" in his 15 years with Minnesota from 1964-78. He played in six Pro Bowls and all four of the Vikings' Super Bowl appearances. He finished his career in 1979 with Seattle. He was inducted into the Pro Football Hall of Fame in 2004.

LEGAL NOTICES

Extension Educator

Northeast Clark County

University of Nevada Cooperative Extension (UNCE) is seeking candidates for a full-time academic, tenure track faculty position for the Southern Area. The Extension Educator provides leadership in assessing knowledge needs and implementing locally-relevant teaching, research, and community service in Northeast Clark County. This position is located in Logandale, NV. The primary responsibility is to identify important issues and ensure that appropriate educational programs are implemented and result in measurable impacts. Travel within the county is required as well as periodic state travel. The Extension Educator also manages the local office, supervises staff and volunteers, and serves as the local liaison with county government. The incumbent is expected to conduct applied research, secure extramural funds and establish a record of publication in keeping with University tenure track faculty positions. For a complete position description, requirements and how to apply, view at www.unrsearch.com or contact Paul Lessick, Search Coordinator, at 702-257-5577, lessickp@unce.unr.edu. Closing date is March 6, 2009. EEO/AA. Women and under-represented groups are encouraged to apply.

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LAS VEGAS-CLARK COUNTY LIBRARY DISTRICT REQUEST FOR BID PROPOSALS RFP NO. 09-16 SECURITY GUARD SERVICES

The Las Vegas-Clark County Library District is soliciting Bid Proposals from qualified and experienced security guard services firms to provide professionally trained, armed and unarmed, uniformed on-site security guard services on a scheduled basis and for special events.

PRE-BID PROPOSAL CONFERENCE: The Pre-Bid Proposal Conference will be held on **Friday, January 16, 2009, 11:00 AM (PST)**, in the Multi-Purpose Room, at the Las Vegas Library, 833 Las Vegas Boulevard North, Las Vegas, NV 89101. The purpose of the Pre-Bid Proposal Conference is to review and discuss the specification documents for the Request for Bid Proposals.

BID PROPOSAL OPENING: The Bid Proposal opening will be held **Friday, January 23, 2009, 11:00 AM (PST)**, in the Multi-Purpose Room at the Las Vegas Library, 833 Las Vegas Boulevard North, Las Vegas, Nevada 89101.

Bid Proposals will be received at the Reception Desk of the Las Vegas Library, 833 Las Vegas Boulevard North, Las Vegas Nevada 89101, on or before **11:00 AM (PST), Friday, January 23, 2009**. Bid Proposals received at 11:01 AM (PST) or after will be returned unopened to the Bid Proposer.

Bid Proposers and other interested parties are invited to attend the Bid Proposal opening.

Specification documents for the Request for Bid Proposals will be available after **12:00 Noon (PST), Monday, January 12, 2009**, at the Reception Desk, Las Vegas Library, 833 Las Vegas Boulevard North, Las Vegas, Nevada 89101.

To request a faxed copy of this Request for Bid Proposals notice, call the Clark County Fax on Demand System at (702) 455-5428 and request document #501.

Questions regarding this Request for Bid Proposals may be directed to Stephen J. Rice, General Services Director, telephone number (702) 507-3740.

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