Washington State Library Microsoft IT Academy

Quick Facts:

1) Microsoft has discounted the IT Academy program approximately 90% for public libraries, community and technical college libraries, and tribal libraries.

   Note: Grade 9 – 12 schools already participate in the IT Academy through OSPI, Microsoft discounts, and legislative appropriations.

2) The Washington State Legislature appropriated over $1,500,000 for the biennium to fill the remaining gap of approximately 10%. The bulk of this funding pays for the IT Academy licenses for participating libraries. About $180,000, or $90,000 annually, pays for an IT Academy project manager at the Washington State Library and related expenses such as travel and supplies.

3) There is no IT Academy licensing cost to participating libraries to offer the IT Academy to their customers during this state biennium. Library customers take courses for free during this same period. Library customers pay for certification testing if they desire to obtain certification in a particular area. Libraries may offer testing or refer customers to established testing centers.

3) Approximately 77 libraries/library systems with 350 library outlets are participating. The goal is to recruit all 440 outlets during the first year of implementation.

   - 17 community and technical college libraries with 23 library outlets
   - 49 public libraries/library systems with 307 public library outlets
   - 10 tribal libraries
   - The Washington State Library with 12 library outlets

4) Key Dates.

   - Legislature appropriates funding and passes budget. Governor signs on June 30, 2013
   - Library registration process opens on July 16, 2013; it will remain open throughout the remainder of the biennium
   - Planning for the IT Academy begins between WSL and Microsoft IT Academy staff on July 25, 2013
   - Authority received from the "State" to purchase the IT Academy licensing for participating libraries on August 15, 2013
   - Recruitment for WSL IT Academy project manager opens on August 23, 2013

- Online meetings for directors, IT staff, local program administrators and frontline staff begins to provide an overview of IT Academy benefits and site begin on September 10, 2013
- Face-to-face training of key library staff for the IT Academy begins on September 30, 2013
- Kick-off planned for public libraries on November 12, 2013 (Bellevue) and November 13, 2013 (Spokane)
- Public libraries begin offering service to their customers after these dates
- Kick-off planned for community and technical college libraries for the start of Winter Quarter in January 2014. Soft launch with public libraries for those that which to proceed in this fashion
- Community and technical college libraries begin to formally offer service to their customers statewide
- Tribal libraries begin offering service to their members is to be determined. Carolyn will work to determine this date in coordination with tribal librarians
- Statistics gathered to determine success of program throughout period of offering the IT Academy program
- Legislature approached to renew funding
- IT Academy program uses current funding to continue through end of current state biennium, June 30, 2015.

Links:

Microsoft IT Academy public site
http://www.microsoft.com/education/itacademy/Pages/index.aspx

Washington State Library Microsoft IT Academy site
http://www.sos.wa.gov/library/libraries/projects/ita/