

DELGADO RECEIVES GRANT FROM MICROSOFT TO FUND WORKFORCE TRAINING IT SKILLS PROGRAMS

Delgado Community College and Microsoft Corporation are proud to announce that Microsoft has awarded a \$425,000 grant to fund Delgado Community College's Workforce Training IT skills programs through the Greater New Orleans Economic Development Foundation. The announcement was made by Microsoft CEO Steve Ballmer, joined by **Dr. Alex Johnson**, Louisiana Senator Mary Landrieu, Louisiana Recovery Authority Chairman Dr. Norman Francis, City of New Orleans Chief Development Officer Donna Addkinson, and other community leaders in a press conference at the Jefferson Workforce Connection Center on Monday, February 26th. The Delgado grant is part of \$1.7 million in grants Microsoft is

donating to assist in the rebuilding of the Gulf States impacted by hurricane Katrina. The focus of the grants is to assist people in making a transition back into the region by supporting workforce development training programs and reestablishing centers impacted by Katrina. IT skill training is considered a key catalyst for the economic renewal of the region. By improving the technology skills of the local and returning workforce, Delgado, Microsoft and its partners hope to advance economic opportunities for business and the local economy. Together, they are working to ensure that every person, every job seeker and every displaced worker who wants a basic level of technology and computing skills will have access to the education and training

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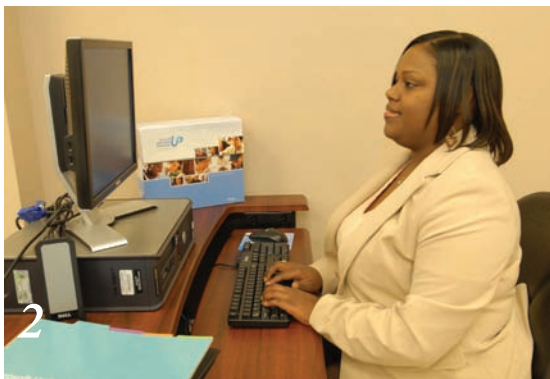
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needed to succeed in this technology-driven economy.

At the announcement, Ballmer and

Johnson recognized **Lisa Burds**, a Delgado student success story. Burds and her three children were forced to evacuate to Houston after their home flooded during hurricane Katrina and its aftermath. In August 2006, however, she made the decision to return to New Orleans and "give it a go," working to renovate her home and secure a job. She had no luck finding employment through a job placement service and was applying for welfare and food

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1 Louisiana Recovery Authority chairman Dr. Norman Francis; Microsoft CEO Steve Ballmer; Louisiana Senator Mary Landrieu; Greater New Orleans, Inc. CEO Mark Drennan; Delgado Community College Chancellor Dr. Alex Johnson; and City of New Orleans Chief Development Officer Donna Addkinson.

2 Lisa Burds, a Delgado student success story, was recognized at the grant announcement.

Delgado and LTC Benefit from Innovations Conference

Over 145 faculty and staff from Delgado and the LTC-District I recently attended the Innovations 2007 Conference, sponsored by the League for Innovation in the Community College. This year's conference was held March 4th-7th at the Hilton New Orleans Riverside.

The Innovations conference is an opportunity for colleagues around the world to showcase their model programs, to share lessons learned, and to look to the future by experiencing a wide array of learning opportunities. Attendees join the most energetic community college professionals as they work together to improve student and organizational learning by exploring innovations in (1) Learning and Teaching, (2) Leadership and Organization, (3) Workforce Preparation and Development, (4) Student Services and Activities, (5) Basic Skills and Developmental Education, (6) Resource Development and Foundation Management, and (7) Research, Assessment, and Accountability.

At the opening session a video of Katrina recovery was shown. The video was produced by **Carol Gniady** and BRCC's Steven Mitchell and featured **Jewel Kirzner**.

During a special session on Tuesday, March 6th, **Dr. Alex Johnson** presented "The Recovery Efforts of Delgado Community College." His session outlined the recovery and redevelopment of the hardest hit community college in the Hurricane Katrina disaster. **Dr. Johnson** included summary references from many of our recent publications, national response efforts in support of rebuilding Delgado, and opportunities to exchange ideas in the development of other colleges' disaster response plans. Several Delgado faculty and staff also presented during the conference.

The League, with its core of powerful and innovative community colleges and more than 160 corporate partners, serves as a catalyst, project incubator, and experimental laboratory for community colleges around the world. They host conferences and institutes, develop web resources, conduct research, produce publications, provide services, and lead projects and initiatives with their member colleges, corporate partners, and other agencies in their continuing efforts to make a positive difference for students and communities.

This year's conference was hosted by the Louisiana Community and Technical College System, and **Kimberly Davis, Carol Gniady** and **Danneal Jones** served on the steering committee. Volunteers from Delgado and the LTC – Region I that helped man the registration booth and offered hospitality, speaker and technical support included: **Yvette Alexis, Dr. Donna Alley, Dr. Mary Bartholomew, Kimberly Baxter, Donna Bayard, Iva Bergeron, John Bernas, Gwen Boutte, Angela Breckenridge, Melanie Deffendall, Malayne DeMars, Yadira Diaz, Wayne Dugue, Jeremy Dussel, Patricia Egers, Patrick Conroy, Terry Gonzales-Kreisman, Michelle Greco, Susan Hague, Susan Halter, Ruby Holliday, Willie James, Lenetra Jefferson, Danneal Jones, Tanisca Jones, Stanley LeJeune, Mary Logan, Lynn Lowery, Terry Markuly, Winston McGruder, Gayle Nolan, Jerrie Protti, Sallye Raymond, Lynn Robertson, Paul Rosefeldt, Pat Roux, Susan Santolucito, Cathy Sarrazin, Cynthia Siegrist, Betty Speyrer, Dr. Nora Steele, Elaine Tolliver, Kim Uddo, Cynthia Williams, Dennis Worsham, and Deborah Young.**

ASID and Delgado Present Free Design Exposition

On Saturday, April 14th, the American Society for Interior Designers (ASID), in conjunction with the Delgado Design Association and the Delgado Community College ASID Student Chapter, will sponsor a Design Exposition and Fundraiser in the Student Life Center (Building 23) of Delgado's City Park Campus.

The Design Exposition, which is free to the public, will feature area design and construction vendors and offer "under one roof" access to products and services that can aid in the rebuilding process. The exposition will further offer the public a way to connect with and learn about the Interior Design and Construction Industries as well as educational opportunities offered in those fields at Delgado.

Net proceeds from exposition sponsorship and display fees will benefit the New Orleans Chapter of Habitat for Humanity and fund a scholarship for students in the Design and Construction programs at Delgado. For more information please call **Erin Sanders** at 483-4165.

Delgado and LTC Team with Urban League and Sheriff's Office to Provide Educational and Employment Opportunities to At-Risk Youth

On March 2nd, Delgado Community College and Louisiana Technical College Region I joined the Urban League of Greater New Orleans and the Orleans Parish Criminal Sheriff's Office to launch the Urban Youth Empowerment Program. This specialized workforce development initiative seeks to engage the most challenged of youth: at risk and adjudicated 18- to 24-year-olds who have been displaced by hurricane Katrina.

In partnership with the Urban League, Delgado will provide Adult Basic Education services, which include Pre-GED and GED preparation, life skills training and health literacy. LTC Region I will deliver training in Construction, Shipbuilding/Welding and Hospitality industries that mirrors the concept of career pathways. The program will also

engage union and employment partners including Marriott in participant recruitment, selection and job placement.

The partnership will play a critical role in empowering the most challenged of the area's youth with new skills that will create pathways to self-sufficiency and ensure them a brighter future.

Support for the Urban Empowerment Program has been made possible through funds from the United States Department of Labor's Youth Offender Demonstration Project/ National Urban League's Gulf Coast Employment Initiative. For more information call (504) 620-9643.



Dr. Johnson joins representatives from Louisiana Technical College Region I, Orleans Parish Criminal Sheriff's Office, State Representative Joseph Toomey and the Urban League of Greater New Orleans in signing the Urban Youth Empowerment Program agreement on March 2nd. Also in attendance but not pictured was State Senator Derrick Shepherd.

Professional Development Academy To Offer Career Enhancing Courses

Delgado will soon be kicking-off the "Professional Development Academy", courses that will serve to extend the discussion of the learning centered philosophy to non-teaching employees, define an expected standard of professionalism for non-teaching employees, and provide a quality professional development program that will support that standard.

The kick-off celebration will be held March 28th at 2:30 pm in the Lac Maurepas Room of the Student Life Center, and will provide the specifics of the academy and details on the various courses for this semester. Just a few examples of the upcoming courses include: "Understanding and Defining Diversity: It's More Than Color", "Conflict Management: Keeping the Gloves Off", "Service Oriented: The Step After 'May I Help You?'" and "Team Building: Coaching a Winning Team".

Any non-teaching Delgado employee is invited to attend the courses, provided they register for them in advance. In collaboration with Workforce Development, CEUs will be offered to eligible attendees. For more information call (504) 483-4080.

PR Department Wins Gold!

On Friday, March 2nd, Delgado's Public Relations Department was honored with a Gold ADDY Award for Collateral Material – Annual Report, Four Color, at the 2006-2007 Ad Club of New Orleans annual awards ceremony. The award was given for the college's 2005 Chancellor's Report.

Carol Gniady, Director of Public Relations, and **Michelle Biggs**, Publications Coordinator, were present to accept the award.

Student Support Service Available 24/7

The Delgado Office of Information Technology and Office of Distance Learning and Instructional Technology have announced that Support Service for students is now available 24 hours a day, 7 days a week. Support Service will provide assistance with Blackboard®, basic log-in problems, and e-mail and password reset issues.

Among the Support Services provided will be:

24/7 phone support
(1-866-271-1458);

Web based ticket submission; and real-time chat. The Support Portal can be accessed by visiting the Delgado website and clicking on the link provided on the homepage or in Blackboard.

Delgado To Host 17th Annual New Orleans British Car Day

On Saturday, March 24th, the British Motoring Club of New Orleans will hold its 17th Annual British Car Day at Delgado Community College City Park Campus. Delgado is sponsoring the show through its Automotive Department.

All British cars and bikes are invited to participate in the show, which will be held from 9 a.m.-3 p.m. An awards dinner at Delgado will follow from 6-8 p.m. Spectators are welcome to view the cars and bikes free of charge from 12-3 p.m. For more information, visit www.bmcno.org.

Delgado Architecture Students Win National Award at 2007 International Home Builders Show

For the second year in a row, the Delgado Community College's National Association of Home Builders (NAHB) Student Chapter placed third in the nation for the Outstanding Student Chapter Award Program at the 2007 International Home Builders Show held February 7th-10th in Orlando, Fla. This event is the largest residential building construction show in the world, attracting more than 100,000 national and international participants. Architecture Professor and Student Advisor **P. Victor Mirzai** attended the show with 17 of his Architecture students to accept the award and attend a job fair that featured Fortune 200 home building companies.

Delgado students received a plaque, a check in the amount of \$750 and two dozen technical construction/estimating calculators at the awards ceremony on Feb. 9th. In addition, they received the enthusiastic accolades of the judges, who had been particularly impressed by Delgado's accomplishments in the wake of hurricane Katrina.

The College's NAHB Student Chapter was able to regroup and rebound in the year that followed the storm, re-growing its membership to 54 strong. The chapter's accomplishments were chronicled in a 100-page portfolio, which was submitted for judging in four categories: chapter activities, campus activities, community activities and fundraising activities. Delgado competed with many larger institutions, including the University of Nebraska, which placed first, and Texas A&M University, which placed second.

The Delgado students who attended the show also took advantage of its job fair to present resumes, show portfolios and participate in interviews with major home building companies including KB Homes, Centrex Homes, Pulte Homes, Drees Homes, KHovnanian, Mercedes Homes and more.

Delgado is no stranger to NAHB awards; it placed third in the nation for the 2004-2005 Outstanding Student Award Program, and Mirzai was recognized by NAHB with the Outstanding Educator Award at the Las Vegas Home Builders Show in 2003. Delgado's NAHB Student Chapter was founded by Mirzai in 1992.



Pictured L to R: (front row) Professor P. Victor Mirzai, Mai Tran, Miko Marshall, Sean Mitchell, Christie Badinger, Peter Young (past president of Home Builders Association of N.O. and Architectural Program advisory member); (back row) Blake Brady, Gabe Lacombe, both Delgado NAHB student chapter board members.

News and Happenings...

Education Students Raise Money

Delgado Education Association (DEA) students have been busy raising money to support their educational activities. Recently, they raffled off a beautiful Valentine's Day Basket, which was won by **Curtis Kennedy**, *Project Manager of Facilities & Planning*. More than \$350 was raised, which will go toward sending students to Chicago for the National Association for the Education of Young Children Conference in November. Thanks to all for generous donations.

New Paramedic Training Program on Northshore

Delgado's Department of EMS Education partnered with Mandeville Fire District 4 to open a new paramedic training program on the Northshore. Classes started in January 2007 with 16 students from Fire District 4. The EMS Education program was also awarded an Incumbent Worker Grant from the Louisiana Department of Labor for Mandeville Fire District 4 to cover cost of tuition and books for 5 semesters for those certified paramedics looking to obtain an Associate of Science degree.

Northshore SGA Sponsored Speaker

On February 28th the Northshore Student Government Association was pleased to honor Black History Month by sponsoring Dr. Mallery Callahan from Greater Starlight Baptist Church in Covington to speak on the theme, "What Can We Do Now?" at the Greater Covington Center auditorium. Additionally, there was a display and discussion of historic artifacts presented by Rev. Carlis Hart from New Life Ministry. Light refreshments were served.



West Bank Student Lounge Gets New Look

Delgado students on the West Bank campus have been enjoying the new furniture and freshly painted walls of the Student Lounge. The SGA West Bank purchased the new furniture and had it installed in January. Since then, the Student Lounge has seen a tremendous increase in use.

Care and Development of Young Children Recently Held Creative Jamboree

The Care and Development of Young Children program students and teachers explored the creative aspects of teaching young children at a marathon fun-filled Jamboree on February 8th. Students from evening classes donated snacks and presented activities for music, movement, and creative artistic expression for children of all ages. Music with Young Children students wrote and presented their own nursery rhymes and songbooks, which were "judged" by a humorous panel of TV-style judges. Special guest from the West Bank DEA, **Kendra Singleton**, led everyone in educational music and exercise activities following along to her own CD. Other highlights came from the Art with Young Children students, as they demonstrated how to use common household utensils to paint colorful trees plus presented a special dance, each with his or her own "alter-ego" a full size self-portrait cutout.

Microsoft Grant cont...

stamps when she learned of Delgado's computer systems training program. After taking courses in Word and Excel at Delgado, Burds succeeded in securing a job as office administrator for H&R Block. While working full-time there, Burds is currently enrolled in Delgado's Care and Development of Young Children program with the goal of opening her own child care center in the future. She credits the computer skills training she received at Delgado with her ability to find a job, rebuild her life in New Orleans, and work toward the dream of establishing her own business.

"Lisa represents just the type of individual who will benefit from this grant," said Johnson. "Armed with IT workforce development skills, student like Lisa can advance and succeed in today's technology-driven work environment and become essential contributors to the area's economic rebuilding and growth."

Microsoft's \$1.7 million round of grants, which build on \$11 million in cash and software donations made by Microsoft and its employees immediately following Katrina to support emergency relief efforts, is estimated to bring the benefits of technology to nearly 20,000 people. The grants are part of Microsoft's Unlimited Potential 2007 program investments of \$55 million worldwide to provide underserved people around the world with access to the technology and technology skills training they need to improve their social and economic opportunities.

Training will be facilitated by Delgado's Workforce Development and Education available at the Jefferson Workforce Connections Center at 1900 Lafayette Street in Gretna. For more information, call (504) 227-1283.

Linking to Rebuild Program Sponsors Sold-out Performance of “A Woman Called Truth”

The New Orleans, Crescent City and Pontchartrain Chapters of the Links, Inc., along with Brooks Restaurants Inc. (a franchise of Burger King), sponsored a performance of the play “A Woman Called Truth,” presented by Delgado Community College on February 23rd. This play, presented as part of Delgado’s Black History Month celebration, chronicled the life of Sojourner Truth from the day she was sold away from her family into slavery as a young girl, through her struggle to free herself and her son, to her emergence as a popular and respected figure advocating abolition and women’s rights.

The sponsorship came about as a result of the Links program: “Linking To Rebuild,” which was started in the aftermath of Hurricane Katrina. The goal of this program is to help rebuild New Orleans in the area of the arts, education, housing and finance. The Arts Committee (a sub-committee of Links) successfully spearheaded the sold out performance and hosted a wine and cheese pre-theater party for the event, which was attended by 120 guests.



Supporters Reggie Thomas, Rhesa McDonald of Links, Sandra Ewell, Brooks Restaurants CEO Eugene Brooks, Gwen Carter and Ken Carter.

FACULTY AND STAFF ACHIEVEMENTS

- **Donita T. Qualey, MN, RN,**

Coordinator of Distance Education for Charity School of Nursing, was the



Keynote Speaker at the Arkansas Organization for Associate Degree Nursing convention in

Little Rock, AR on Friday, March 2nd. Her topic was “Evidence-Based Nursing Education: Critical Thinking, Teaching Pedagogies and Student Success”. As President of the National Organization for Associate Degree Nursing (N-OADN), Donita also discussed the recent legislative proposals in New York and New Jersey which would require Associate Degree nurses to obtain a baccalaureate within 10 years to retain their RN license, white papers on the

topic currently being developed in other states and efforts on behalf of N-OADN in conjunction with AACC (American Association of Community Colleges) to oppose this legislation. She also presented demographics and learning characteristics of today’s community college student along with best practices to enhance student success in ADN programs.

- **Victor Mirzai,** *Professor of Architectural Design,* recently received the title of “Meritorious Commendation”. This title is only awarded to one who has already achieved the rank of Professor and who thereafter demonstrates “outstanding achievement, recognition, and/or service to the field of education or one’s discipline external to the College at the local, regional or national level.”

Promotions

Congratulations to the following employee who has recently been promoted:

Dana Gable – *Pell Specialist (Financial Aide)*

New Hires

We welcome the following employees who have recently joined Delgado:

Gregory Eschete – *Lab Assistant (Science & Math)*

Alexander Hartmann – *Instructor Librarian (Library West Bank)*

Marsha Walley – *Training Facilitator (Workforce Development)*