



Digital Divide Initiative

DDI serves 14 households at Centro

The Digital Divide Initiative (DDI) held a Computer Take Home Workshop at Centro on Friday December 5th. Most of the participants participated in a series of meetings that taught them how to be more involved in their child's education, others were from the ESL program offered at Centro.

Centro is a partnership with Latino and Chicano families. Centro is a place where we offer respite from troubles, understanding to solve crises, education and encouragement to make change, nurturing and healing to strengthen families, art and culture to reaffirm our identity and value, and resources to build a better future.



Participants set up computers during workshop

DDI is a program of the Center for Business and Community Economic Development at the University of Minnesota

DDI's Nelson Recognized as Modern-day Technology Leader



Ken Nelson, supervisor of the OBCED Digital Divide Initiative has been selected to be recognized, as a Modern-Day Technology Leader, during the 23rd annual National BEYA Science, Technology, Engineering and Math (STEM) Global Competitiveness Conference.

Nelson received a letter in November stating that February 20, 2009, he will be formally acknowledged for his accomplishments with a Certificate of Recognition during the Modern-Day Technology Leadership Luncheon. He was nominated for the award by Barbara Milon, executive director of the Phyllis Wheatley Community Center

According to Nelson's award letter, "Modern-day Technology Leaders are men and women of color who are demonstrating outstanding performance and will shape the course of engineering, science, and technology in the future. He and other technology leaders are individuals whose stories of phenomenal success merit national recognition."

The Digital Divide Initiative builds bridges to opportunity through innovative partnerships to bring technology to underserved populations.



BEYA STEM
GLOBAL COMPETITIVENESS CONFERENCE

Baltimore Convention Center & Hilton
Baltimore, Baltimore MD
Thursday, February 19 – Saturday, February 21, 2009

The Digital Divide Initiative Marks King Holiday by Refurbishing Computers

To make Martin Luther King Day a “day on, not a day off,” the OBCED Digital Divide Initiative will mark the holiday by refurbishing computers. The project will bring together students, parents, teachers, AmeriCorps members, and technical volunteers to refurbish computers.

Computer Upgrade Day 2009 will provide past DDI workshop participants the opportunity to bring their computers in for an upgrade. Additional RAM, DVD players and CD Burners and other items will be available. Educational software will also be loaded onto participant computers. Volunteers will also prepare computer systems for distribution to families in upcoming workshops.

Other activities include poster-making and a pot-luck style birthday lunch. Attendees are encouraged to bring a dish to share. The Office for Business and Community Economic Development will provide the cake and ice cream

Dr. King believed each individual possessed the power to lift himself or herself up no matter what his or her circumstances – rich or poor, black or white, man or woman.

Whether teaching literacy skills, helping an older adult surf the Web, or helping an individual build the skills they need to acquire a job, acts of service can help others improve their own lives while doing so much for those who serve, as well.

WHO:

Digital Divide Initiative staff and volunteers
Students, parents, and other community volunteers

WHERE:

University Office Plaza
2221 University Ave SE

WHAT:

Service project honoring Dr. King

WHEN:

January 19, 2009
9:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m.

This service project is one of hundreds of activities that states and cities are organizing to honor the legacy of Dr. King. In 1994, Congress passed the King Holiday and Service Act, directing the King Center and the Corporation for National and Community Service to carry out a day of service reflecting Dr. King's life and teachings.

For more information about the national day of service, please visit www.mlkday.gov.

CELEBRATE THE
MARTIN LUTHER KING, JR.
DAY OF SERVICE
VOLUNTEER

"EVERYBODY CAN BE GREAT,
because everybody can serve."
— Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.

THINK ABOUT IT.
Dr. King knew what
makes a great American.
Doesn't matter if
you're young or old.
Doesn't matter where
you live. Doesn't matter
how busy you are.
All that matters is what
you do for others.

**HONOR THE DREAM.
BE GREAT.
VOLUNTEER.**

JANUARY 19, 2009

MARTIN LUTHER KING JR.
MAKE IT A DAY ON
DON'T LET IT OFF
DAY OF SERVICE

Corporation for
NATIONAL &
COMMUNITY
SERVICE

www.mlkday.gov

DDI Volunteer Opportunities

Lunch Servers: Assist in the preparation and distribution of lunch and "MLK Birthday Cake" to event participants, help to organize "Pot Luck" dishes.

Software Tutoring: Assist event participants in the use of various computer software programs. Including but not limited to: OpenOffice 3.0, AVG 8.0 Free, Internet Safety, and educational software.

Computer Upgrade Assistant: Registering participants for online resources, install computer parts, load software, provide advice.

**For more information visit
www.theddi.org**