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MICROSOFT STRENGTHENS MCWT FOUNDATION'S
SUMMER TECHNOLOGY CAMP THROUGH GENEROUS SPONSORSHIP
Annual Camp Inspires Girls To Pursue Technology Fields

DETROIT, July 6, 2006– Underwritten by a generous donation from Microsoft Corp., supplemented by another from the Cherri & Jack Musser Foundation, the Michigan Council of Women In Technology Foundation is sponsoring its third annual summer camp for girls at Lawrence Technological University from July 31st through August 3rd. The camp is designed to generate excitement about math and science among young women, and encourage them to enter technology-related careers.

Working in teams, camp attendees will learn about computers, web technology and robotics, as well as design and build their own websites. Approximately 40 girls in grades four through seven will participate.

“Companies want their information technology investments to closely align with strategic business goals. To accomplish that, they will require a diverse, talented, and well-rounded IT workforce in the next decade,” said Patty Dilger, Microsoft’s director of automotive and industrial equipment for North America. “This camp is exemplary of the grassroots efforts necessary all over the United States, and particularly here in Michigan, to encourage women to take leadership roles in our field.”

As in the previous two years, the camp will feature prominent female technology leaders as mentors and guest speakers. Lunches will also be sponsored by a variety of corporations in addition to Microsoft, including Ford Motor Co., Blue Cross Blue Shield of Michigan and General Motors Corp. Additionally, IBM Corp. and Eisenbrenner Public Relations will present intensive technical sessions.

“Microsoft is committed to reaching out to the Great Lakes community and developing long-term relationships with professional, educational, and nonprofit organizations serving Michigan,” said Marietta Davis, general manager for Microsoft’s Heartland District. “MCWT and its foundation represent the very best of organizations, giving back to this state. We view our funding of this wonderful camp not only as a way of strengthening ties to the Michigan business community, but also as a way to grow talent—talent we hope one day will further the advances of the high-tech industry, and help us all!”

Prospective participants for the MCWT Foundation Technology Camp are selected through an application process. For more information on camp participation, please visit www.mcwtf.org.

About Microsoft

The world’s largest software company, Microsoft fosters a core belief that every successful corporation has a responsibility to use its resources and influence to make a positive impact on the world and its people. Microsoft’s ongoing work in the area of global citizenship is focused on mobilizing resources across the company to create opportunities in communities around the world, foster economic growth, and serve the public good through innovative technologies and partnerships with government, industry, and community organizations.

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About The Michigan Council of Women in Technology Foundation

The Michigan Council of Women in Technology Foundation is a 501(c) 3 organization dedicated to correcting the dramatically growing trend of gender disparity in the information technology field. The Foundation accomplishes this by attacking the problem at several of its roots--the education and orientation of young women throughout school, and the fostering of women in various stages of their professional lives--with a variety of educational and inspirational programs and support. For more information about the foundation, please visit www.mcwtf.org

About The Michigan Council of Women in Technology

The Michigan Council of Women in Technology provides leadership, mentoring, community outreach, professional development and networking to professional women within the Michigan technology community. The association's vision is to serve as the premier association for professional women within Michigan's technology community. For more information about the association, please visit www.mcwt.org.

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