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News Release

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MIDDLE SCHOOL FAMILIES TO GET FREE COMPUTERS

Special Training Included to Improve the Home Learning Environment for Students

(LOS ANGELES) — Families from as many as 30 middle schools in the Los Angeles Unified School District (LAUSD) can soon count on refurbished computers loaded with educational software, as well as specialized training, which will focus on strengthening core academic skills using technology. As many as 16,000 students and their parents will benefit.

Computers for Youth will provide the computers, known as “home learning centers,” as well as “family learning workshops.” The combination, intended for underserved youngsters, will provide greater access to information and skills, while also creating a better environment for studying at home.

“Parents want to help their children do better at school. We encourage them to be involved in the education of their sons and daughters. The Computers for Youth program will provide an important tool to families that cannot afford computers, certainly a benefit for our students,” said LAUSD Superintendent Ramon C. Cortines.

The partnership between the District and Computers for Youth is funded by a \$7.6 million grant from the federal American Recovery and Reinvestment Act’s Broadband Technology Opportunity Program. The goals include bridging the technological divide between students who can afford computers and those who cannot, improving education, increasing economic opportunities for low-income families and educating them about broadband.

LAUSD schools will be selected based on an application and the number of students who participate in the free or reduced price lunch program, a standard indicator of low income. Training will be provided in English and Spanish.

Over the past two years, Computers for Youth has served 800 sixth-grade students and their families at El Sereno Middle School.

“We are thrilled to be dramatically increasing the number of families we serve in Los Angeles,” Elisabeth Stock, chief executive officer and co-founder of Computers for Youth, said of the upcoming expansion. “This is a cost-effective initiative that will allow

(more)

us to strengthen the home learning environment of children throughout Los Angeles. By giving families the training and resources they need, we will help ensure that thousands of LAUSD students are able to reach their full potential as learners throughout their lifetime."

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