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Bay State Skills Corporation



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Computer Literacy Summer Program

University of Massachusetts  
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Following through on his administrations' commitment to computer literacy, Governor Michael S. Dukakis today announced state funding for a summer program that will provide computer exposure to 760 disadvantaged urban youth. State funds totaling \$.5 million will be made available through the Bay State Skills Corporation, a quasi-public corporation established in 1981 to award grants to programs linking industry and education. "In this first ever statewide effort," said Governor Dukakis, "we have brought together resources of the state and local governments, private industry and the public schools."

The BSSC will provide funding to 5 urban sites around the state, Boston, Fall River, Cambridge/Somerville, Worcester, and Springfield. Eligible youth will be selected from those enrolled in the Summer Youth Employment Program, thereby ensuring a part-time job in addition to computer exposure. A focus has been placed on enrolling in-school youth into the computer component. The design and content of this program are the result of a collaboration between the Digital Equipment Corporation, the French River Teacher Center, and the Oxford School District. All three partners are assisting with the implementation of this state wide effort.

In addition to local DEC plant participation at each site, Private Industry Councils have recruited other private sector partners for guest speakers and plant tours. Staffing for the program will primarily consist of public school teachers, many of whom will receive their first computer exposure through the staff training component. Local public school officials have assisted with both the identification of teachers and in-school students. Public schools will also be utilized as training sites and will be providing the necessary equipment.

The basic program design at each site contains the following elements:

- . 2 week non-residential summer computer component;
- . instruction on the history of computers, uses of computers, careers utilizing computers, basic computer languages;
- . communications workshops (videotape, audiotape, wordprocessing);
- . plant tours focusing on computer parts, CAD/CAM, industry organization, job categories, career ladders, etc.;
- . hands-on instruction and use of computer terminals;
- . orienteering activities built around computing concepts.

At the completion of the 2 week component participating youth will be able to:

- . understand the training and experience necessary to enter a specific job category;
- . understand current computer applications in engineering, education, medicine, supermarkets, and the auto industry;
- . identify careers related to the computer field;
- . understand foreseeable technological advances and how they might be applied;
- . execute commands for logging on and off a microcomputer terminal;
- . obtain access to stored information;
- . type in a Basic program and store it on a disk;
- . recall and execute a stored program from a disk;
- . write commands and utilize Turtle Graphics;
- . use a word processor to write a report.



Bay State Skills Corporation

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