

Full Employment Council and Community Leaders Celebrate SBC Foundation Excelerator Grant in Technology Funding

Grant will support technology training internships

Friday, January 28, 2005 – The Full Employment Council, which operates the Missouri Career Centers, joined city leaders, state legislators, business and community leaders to announce its SBC Foundation Excelerator technology grant of \$25,000. This grant is the fourth phase of a \$100,000 investment in the Kansas City community made by SBC in 2000. The Full Employment Council provides a variety of workforce training initiatives and community economic development programs. SBC Excelerator is a major philanthropic initiative that connects the nation's residents to important community resources. The program empowers nonprofits to use technology to expand the reach of services and heighten the impact those services have on people in the community.

The SBC Foundation gift, announced by Clyde McQueen, president and CEO, will allow the Full Employment Council to create an internship program in high-tech industries to serve up to 75 youth over a four year period. Students who successfully complete the program will be qualified for employment in various technology careers. This program operates out of the Youth Opportunity Center which is a partnership between the FEC and the Kansas City, MO Parks and Recreation Department.

"The Full Employment Council provides important workforce training to benefit workers and employers," said Cynthia Brinkley, President, SBC Missouri. "The SBC Excelerator grant will provide technology training to many bright and talented young people."

"We are always looking for ways to do a better job serving the workforce of Missouri,." Said Clyde McQueen, President/CEO of the Full Employment Council. "With this internship program, we can match the enthusiasm and drive of young employees with the skills and technology training that are in-demand today."

"The Full Employment Council is a valuable resource, providing solutions for students, employees and employers," said Missouri State Senator Yvonne Wilson. "I applaud this partnership with SBC to make sure young people entering our workforce are well trained and well-matched with the technology jobs offered."

"SBC has a strong reputation as a good corporate citizen and the Full Employment Council has a proven track record," said Peter Yelorda, Vice Chairman of the FEC Board and Executive Vice President/CAO Blue Cross/Blue Shield. "This is a fabulous opportunity for the students who will enter this innovative internship program."

SBC Excelerator was founded on the idea that technology access and resources can improve the lives of people in communities across the nation. This year, the SBC Foundation provided \$5 million in 2004 SBC Excelerator competitive grants to 436 nonprofit organizations throughout the SBC 13-state region. The competitive grant program is part of an overall \$8 million 2004 SBC Excelerator initiative. Now in its third year, SBC Excelerator has provided more than \$27 million to nonprofit organizations around the country to build stronger communities and improve lives by supporting improved technology resources.

The SBC Foundation is the charitable giving arm of SBC Communications Inc. The SBC Foundation supports efforts that enrich and strengthen diverse communities nationwide, particularly those with an emphasis on education and technology and those that benefit underserved populations. SBC Foundation-backed programs are designed to increase access to information technologies, broaden technology training and professional skills development, and effectively integrate new technologies to enhance education and economic development. The Foundation Center has consistently ranked the SBC Foundation among the nation's top six corporate foundations. In 2002, the SBC Foundation launched SBC Excelerator, a multimillion dollar competitive grants program that funds non profit organizations in their efforts to digitally connect communities.

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