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11 Austin Free-Net Techno-Women Scholarships Awarded for IT Certification Program

Austin, Texas-March 16, 2015 - Austin Free-Net has selected 11 low-income women to receive \$7,500 in scholarships for a new technology program that will certify students in COMP TIA A+. The 34 week program launched on March 7, 2015 and is expected to conclude with a career fair for participants in August. Funding for the Techno-Women program was provided by the Mitte Foundation, Shields Ayers Foundation, Google Fiber and the City of Austin.

The Scholarship recipients were selected based on the following criteria: desire to pursue a sustainable career in the technology industry, socio-economic status, number of dependents and interview results. Austin Free-Net partnered with Dress for Success Austin Chapter, Housing Authority of the City of Austin and Goodwill Central Texas to find candidates for the program.

AFN's Techno-Women will prepare women for today's technology workforce. The expected outcomes of the program are that students will have business acumen, develop soft skills, know how to build their own computer, learn the functionality of computer software and hardware components, and earn certifications in CompTIA A+, Network +, and A+. The students will also complete an internship within Austin Free-Net's technical services department.

"All of our scholarship recipients are excited about the potential to receive their certification and find a sustainable job that will impact their families' income. We are also very excited to offer this opportunity to the community and look forward to building the program to include more low-income women."

For more information on Austin Free-Net, hours and locations of public labs and classes please visit www.austinfree.net.

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Austin Free-Net (AFN) is a 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization that has been working to break down the Digital Divide since 1995. We exist to provide technology training and access to the community, fostering skills that enable people to succeed in a digital age. AFN's office is located at 2209 Rosewood Avenue, Austin Texas 78702; phone: 512.236.8225. For more see austinfree.net