



# FYI FROM DPI

JUNE 2015

## NC Microsoft IT Academy Nets 200,000 Certifications and \$20 Million in Savings



More than five years ago, thanks to the vision of the Department of Public Instruction staff and a strong partnership with Microsoft, North Carolina became the first state in the nation to offer courses and credentials through the Microsoft IT Academy to high school students statewide. What began as a pilot program to boost students' technology skills and offer career credentials now serves as a pipeline to move skilled high school graduates with professional certifications into college and careers.

Earlier this month, 18 of these high school students traveled to Raleigh and were recognized by the North Carolina State Board of Education for earning top honors in the statewide 2015 NC Microsoft Office Specialist (MOS) competition. These students were some of the nearly 50,000 students enrolled last semester in Career and Technical Education (CTE) classes offered through North Carolina's Microsoft IT Academy.

The youth also were among the many students and teachers who have earned valuable technology skills in Microsoft applications and more than 200,000 professional certifications since the Academy's inception in 2010.

In addition to offering training and credentials, NC's Microsoft IT Academy has **saved students and educators more than \$20 million in certification costs in just five years.**

During their visit to the capital city, the 2015 MOS state champions also visited with and received recognition from members of the North Carolina General Assembly.

"I am grateful that my 15-year-old son had the opportunity to earn one of these valuable Microsoft Office certifications this year," said **Speaker of the House Tim Moore**. "It is clear that North Carolina's Microsoft IT Academy is a great program that will serve our students well as they move into the workforce." **Representative Hugh Blackwell** also recognized the students and the Academy on the House floor.



To learn more about North Carolina's Microsoft IT Academy and the 2015 MOS champions, read [DPI's press release](#).

### What others are saying about NC's Microsoft IT Academy:



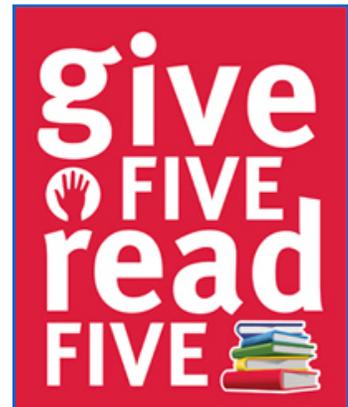
Carolina's students and economy."

"We congratulate North Carolina for offering their students the resources that will prepare them for success in college and their careers," said **Jamie Harper, general manager, U.S. Education, Microsoft Corp.** "North Carolina employers have thousands of jobs available today requiring technology skills. This milestone celebrates another step forward for North

"The state of North Carolina demonstrated their leadership in career and technical education by adopting technology certification in high schools statewide, and we are thrilled to help celebrate the milestone of 200,000 certifications earned through this program," said **Aaron Osmond, vice president of the global Certipoint offering for Pearson VUE.** "Microsoft certification is more than a piece of paper - it gives students tangible proof they have the Microsoft skills employers are seeking. North Carolina has caught our vision for helping every individual excel and succeed through certification, and we look forward to



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