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## Press Release

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**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**  
Tuesday, November 20, 2012

### IT Training Closes Skill Gap for Region's Workforce

**CLEARWATER (November 20, 2012)** – Tampa Bay WorkForce Alliance and WorkNet Pinellas are proud to announce the launch of a new information technology (IT) and telecommunications training initiative that will serve over 2,300 participants. The *Tampa Bay Hi-Tech* program, a partnership that includes St. Petersburg College, Hillsborough Community College, IBM and AT&T, provides education, training and job placement assistance within the IT industry.

Funded with a \$3.8m grant awarded by the U.S. Department of Labor, the program will create career pathways for the region's IT workforce. The development of sophisticated technologies heightens the need to educate and train individuals in these occupations.

"The growing need for IT employees with the necessary skills to meet the rapidly advancing technological landscape is imperative to region's economic recovery," said Ed Peachey, President and CEO of Tampa Bay WorkForce Alliance and WorkNet Pinellas.

The program focuses on building a solid foundation of qualified IT and telecommunication professionals to employ across the region. For additional information on the *Tampa Bay Hi-Tech Training* program visit [www.workforcetampa.com](http://www.workforcetampa.com) or [www.worknetpinellas.org](http://www.worknetpinellas.org).

#### **About Tampa Bay WorkForce Alliance and WorkNet Pinellas**

For more information on WorkNet Pinellas or Tampa Bay Workforce Alliance programs and services please visit [www.worknetpinellas.org](http://www.worknetpinellas.org) or [www.workforcetampa.com](http://www.workforcetampa.com). They are members of the Employ Florida network of workforce services and are equal opportunity employers delivering equal opportunity programs. Auxiliary aids and services are available upon request to individuals with disabilities by calling TTY/TDD 711.

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