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## Press Release

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### FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Thursday, June 27, 2013

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

**TAMPA (June 27, 2013)** – 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 Training (HITT)* program; which is a partnership that includes St. Petersburg College, Hillsborough Community College, IBM and AT&T, will provide 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 program focuses on building a solid foundation of qualified IT and telecommunication professionals to employ across the region. The HITT program offers paid tuition, books and fees for industry certification exams in the Information Technology (IT) fields for individuals who meet the program's eligibility requirements. To view the eligibility requirements, program offerings, and to begin the registration process, visit [www.workforcetampa.com](http://www.workforcetampa.com) or [www.worknetpinellas.org](http://www.worknetpinellas.org) and click on the Tampa Bay Hi-Tech Program button on the homepage.

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

*Tampa Bay Workforce Alliance and WorkNet Pinellas serve as the regional workforce development boards for Hillsborough and Pinellas Counties, respectively. They are two of twenty-four workforce boards in the state of Florida. 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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