



**CHICAGO CAREER TECH**

Growing Chicago's Technology Workforce

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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**CHICAGO CAREER TECH EXPANDS TO ADDRESS NEEDS OF BOTH LOCAL  
BUSINESSES AND UNEMPLOYED RESIDENTS**

*Now accepting applications for spring programs; Eligibility requirements expanded to reach even more unemployed Chicagoans*

**CHICAGO—** In 2009, Chicago Career Tech (CCT) launched with a mission to help unemployed Chicagoans enhance and update their skill sets to align with the current hiring needs of local businesses. As the program begins to accept applications for its fifth session with programs beginning as early as March, CCT continues its efforts to address the workforce skills gap with the expanded offerings and changes in eligibility requirements that will allow it to serve even more unemployed Chicagoans, including veterans.

Beginning January 23, CCT will begin accepting applications for both of its retraining programs:

- *Career Training*, a three- to six-month, five- to six-day-a-week job-retraining program that offers classroom instruction from an educational institution and hands-on training with a business or nonprofit organization; program duration depends on training track.

Participants in this option also have opportunities to obtain college credit and earn critical industry certifications. *Career Training* participants also receive career and professional development services through Challenger, Gray & Christmas, the nation's premier outplacement consulting organization.

This spring, CCT is adding two new tracks to its *Career Training* program, including SharePoint Content Management and Mobile Application Development. Other training opportunities available during this program session include Microsoft certifications, CISCO network technology, project management and Web development.

- *Pathways to Employment*, a corporate-based, “train to hire” opportunity in which local companies partner with CCT to develop a customized program that includes both classroom-style instruction and hands-on training from the businesses designed to meet their current hiring needs. In this option, upon successful completion of the program, CCT participants may be interviewed and considered for full-time employment.

Applications for CCT's training programs are available exclusively online at [www.chicagocareertech.com](http://www.chicagocareertech.com). Application deadlines for CCT's *Pathways to Employment* program range from February 14-March 23; deadlines vary by employer program. Applications for the *Career Training* program will be accepted through March 23 at 5:00 p.m.

"CCT is a win-win for both local employers and our participants because we work directly with Chicago companies to determine the skills they are looking for in prospective employees and then tailor our offerings accordingly," said Marie Lynch, president of Chicago Career Tech.

To be eligible for the program, potential participants must meet the following minimum requirements:

- City of Chicago resident
- Minimum of a high school diploma or earned GED
- Unemployed (after January 1, 2008), with previous annual income of \$25,000 to \$90,000 (previously \$25,000 to \$80,000)
- Eligible to collect or have exhausted unemployment insurance benefits in Illinois
- Not currently enrolled in another job training program

Local employers and unemployed Chicagoans interested in participating in Chicago Career Tech are encouraged to visit [www.chicagocareertech.com](http://www.chicagocareertech.com) for more information.

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### **About Chicago Career Tech**

*Chicago Career Tech is an innovative leading resource for local businesses that strives to close the workforce skills gap by providing businesses with talented, retrained professionals they need to fill employment opportunities. Leveraging public-private partnerships, and with financial support from the City of Chicago and the State of Illinois, Chicago Career Tech offers unemployed emerging- and middle-income Chicago residents the training needed to learn the skills necessary to obtain and succeed in these high demand technology-based careers. For more information, visit [www.chicagocareertech.com](http://www.chicagocareertech.com)*

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