



Trilogy's Voilà Foundation Funds NetHope Intern Program in Haiti to Train IT support staff for bustling NGO community

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Voilà Foundation Funds Haitian IT Students for NetHope Academy

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October 25, 2010 - The Voilà Foundation announced today a \$50,000 contribution to support NetHope Academy's ICT Internship program to create full time job opportunities for unemployed Haitian computer science students and provide the NGO community with much needed IT specialists to assist in their post earthquake re-building efforts. The six-month paid internship program is housed at La Ecole Supérieure d'Infotronique d'Haiti (ESIH), the leading engineering university in Haiti, and aims to place over 60 students in full-time employment at its conclusion. In addition to the Voilà Foundation, NetHope has received funding and support from Microsoft, Cisco and Accenture.

Developed by NetHope Academy, the program is already underway, initially employing 36 interns who spent the first two-weeks participating in intensive boot camp-style classroom trainings at ESIH before being deployed to receive on the job training with the IT departments of 14 international nongovernmental organizations (NGOs). The program targets to provide educational opportunities for some of the most disadvantaged populations in Haiti including girls and natives of rural cities and addresses the country's dire need for skilled IT professionals.

"The NetHope Academy and our member humanitarian organizations are giving these young people an incredible opportunity to get hands-on work experience, which will almost certainly guarantee them employment at the end of their internships," says Frank Schott, Director of NetHope Academy.

The humanitarian sector is facing a critical shortage of IT professionals in Haiti. NGO staffing has risen from 3,500 to 10,000 in-country employees, however the number of IT support staff has not been able to increase quickly enough to respond to their needs. The already shallow resource pool of skilled IT staff was further depleted following the earthquake and severely limits relief and development efforts.

Bernard Fils-Aime, president of the Voilà Foundation, said this imbalance creates good job opportunities for Haiti's youth and applauds NetHope's efforts to fill a critical need. "Haiti's youth want to work and contribute to Haiti's progress in a meaningful way, but they need education, training and experience," Fils-Aime said. "The Voilà Foundation is proud to partner with NetHope and the world's leading technology companies to provide Haiti's youth with these opportunities that also directly benefit the NGO community who are helping rebuild our country. The NetHope Academy provides a 'win win' solution for everyone."

The internship training will be geared towards desktop support functions, hardware maintenance and simple network administration. Those that accelerate through the core curriculum will be given ample

opportunity to extend their knowledge through additional advanced courses, thanks to the contributions of Microsoft and Cisco who have contributed financial resources and training expertise to the program. The NetHope Academy is housed at La Ecole Supérieure d'Infotronique d'**Haiti (ESIH)** in Port-au-Prince, the leading engineering university in Haiti. The launch of the NetHope Academy coincides with the reopening of ESIH which was destroyed during the earthquake and features a newly installed Windows Multipoint Server lab.

"Microsoft is inspired by these young people who have seen a lot in the last year, yet continue to pursue their dreams for jobs in the technology sector," says Lutz Ziob, General Manager, Microsoft Learning. "Cultivating skilled IT professionals is critical to the ongoing rebuilding of Haiti, which is why we're excited to work with these individuals to help them earn Microsoft Certified Professional certifications."

Amy Christian, Cisco Vice President of Corporate Affairs agrees. "Cisco and NetHope have been partners from the very beginning when NetHope was founded in 2001. We are proud of our work together and the Cisco Networking Academy stands ready to support NetHope and these young people that just need a chance."

You can learn more about the program at www.nethope.org/academy

About NetHope

NetHope, Inc., which started in 2001, is a new-generation collaboration of the international community's leading nongovernmental organizations (NGOs) representing over \$33 billion (USD) of emergency relief, human development and conservation programs in more than 150 countries. Through member collaboration and by facilitating public-private partnerships with major technology companies, NetHope enables members to leverage their technology investments to better serve their end beneficiaries. For more information, visit www.nethope.org.

About the Voilà Foundation

For over a decade, Voilà, one of Haiti's leading wireless communications service providers, has been committed to improving the lives of the Haitian people through youth and education initiatives supported by the Voilà Foundation, now an independent 501(c)(3) tax-exempt charity in the United States. In December 2009, Voilà and parent company, Trilogy International Partners, based in Bellevue, Wash., received the prestigious "Award for Corporate Excellence" from Secretary of State Hillary Clinton in recognition of Voilà's record of corporate social responsibility in Haiti. Following the tragic earthquake on Jan. 12, Voilà and Trilogy, through The Voilà Foundation, will fund initiatives that provide immediate relief to the homeless and injured and to underwrite programs that will deliver lasting social benefits.