



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
May, 2010

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Free Online Computer, Math, and Life Skills Training Available

GCFLearnFree.org® is an online training program that provides fundamental computer, math, life skills, and reading comprehension training for adults and is designed to help them improve the quality of their life. Self-paced tutorials allow users who want to learn at their own pace the opportunity to complete lessons, challenge activities, and practice quizzes independently, as well as track their progress and quiz results. Online classes allow them to do the same, but with the support of an instructor. The program is administered by the Goodwill Community Foundation, Inc. ("GCF"), a NGO operating out of the United States that supports a number of international organizations, including many in Africa.

The website offers computer basics lessons, which help users, learn how to maneuver through popular Microsoft programs such as Access, Excel, PowerPoint and Word. These lessons also offer tips on how to use Facebook, the Internet and popular email programs. Math and Money lessons help users to learn how to create a personal budget, manage a checking account or plan for retirement. There are even lessons that help learners brush up on their addition, subtraction, multiplication, division and more. These tutorials are self-paced and include ways to practice the skills taught.

Our Work & Career portion of the website offers tips on job searching, resume writing and interview skills. Well written resumes and cover letter examples are included. Practice interview questions and tips for preparing for an interview are available. There is even an interactive learning tool that allows users to peruse proper interview attire.

Our Everyday Life lessons give learners the opportunity to develop functional literacy and communication skills through interactive, real-world scenarios without the fear of real-world consequences. Users can practice skills such as following a recipe, using an ATM machine, comparing labels at the grocery store or reading a subway map.

Four-week, online classes offer users the opportunity to learn with the support of an instructor in an online class environment. Instructor supported classes include Microsoft programs such as Access, Excel, PowerPoint and Word. There is also a class on Math Basics. Class participants complete lessons, tests, quizzes and assignments. The assignments are graded by the instructor and users can communicate with their instructor via the class message center. In addition, learners can earn certificates of completion and Continuing Education Units (CEUs) which are accredited through the International Association of Continuing Education and Training (IACET).

In 2010, GCFLearnFree.org launched its new Reading Program. The Reading Program is designed to help struggling adult readers become more proficient with the most common words in the English language. Built upon the 1,000 most popular words, this Reading Program utilizes original texts that use these words to help the learner become familiar with conversational English. Learners gain exposure to these words through a number of different interactive learning tools that help them learn to read.

The interactive learning tools in the Reading Program are designed in a way that learners can choose how they learn to read. A Letter Explorer allows the learner to choose a letter and then see and hear different words that contain that letter. The Word Explorer allows a learner to pick a category of words, such as Transportation, and then see a group of words that fall into that category. When a word is clicked on, learners can choose to watch a video about the word, see a picture or hear it pronounced. If a learner wants to practice reading larger portions of text, the Text Explorer allows them to choose a category and listen as a male or female voice reads the original text to the learner. The Video Explorer allows a learner to pick a category of words and watch videos that define the word. Lastly, there is an Activities section which will contain game-like word activities. Learners can decide which activity will best help them learn to read English.

Although the content of the website was originally designed for US learners, the curriculum can be used by global audiences. To date, GCFLearnFree.org has served over 1 million people from over 230 different countries around the world. We currently serve over 8,000 users from Africa.

GCFLearnFree.org gives you the freedom to learn what you want, when you want, absolutely free. To see why learners across the world use our curriculum, visit www.GCFLearnFree.org today.

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