

Grand Opening of Fourth Native American Achievement Center to Take Place on April 24th, 2008

*at Houlton Band of Maliseet in
Maine*

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HOULTON, ME, April 15, 2008 – Together, SeniorNet, the world’s leading technology educator of older adults, and IBM Corporation are set to bring technology access and education to the fourth rural Native American reservation in the United States

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April 24

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, 2008

, SeniorNet and

IBM

will conduct the grand opening of the

Maliseet

Technology

Achievement

Center

at the Houlton Band of Maliseet in

Houlton

,

Maine

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This grand opening is part of the ‘Hope and Harmony for Humanity Initiative’ sponsored by IBM, led by SeniorNet, and in partnership with the U.S. Department of the Interior Office of Indian Energy and Economic Development (IEED) and the Native American Chamber of Commerce (NACC).

Members of the community and media are invited to attend.

The agenda for the grand opening events is as follows:

Houlton Band of Maliseet Technology Achievement Center Grand Opening

Maliseet Recreation Center - 568 Foxcroft Road, Houlton, Maine

Thursday, April 24th, 2008 1:00 p.m. – 2:00 p.m. EDT

Grand Opening and Welcome Speeches 2:00 p.m. – 3:00 p.m. EDT

Refreshments and Tour of Achievement Center

□ ‘Hope and Harmony for Humanity’ is a grant-based initiative designed to bring computer access and education to five low-income and remote Native American reservations across the

United States

in an ongoing effort to bridge the 'Digital Divide.'

"We appreciate having been chosen as one of the five tribal communities selected to develop this center," said Brenda Commander, tribal chief, Houlton Band of Maliseet. "This is a great opportunity for our members to have access to state-of-the-art computer equipment and training. Members of all ages will benefit by acquiring the technical skills needed to succeed in the 21st century. I would like to thank all the project partners for their outstanding efforts."

The Maliseet Achievement Center opening on April 24th will offer computer and Internet access, education and training for reservation residents of all ages. The

Maliseet

Achievement

Center

will also feature a special program to educate the Maliseet tribal elders, most of whom have never used a computer, on computer skills and applications.

"The 'Hope and Harmony for Humanity' initiative has broken new ground in bringing technology to rural and low-income Native American communities, including the Blackfeet Nation, the

Leech

Lake

Band of Ojibwe, the Tigua Tribe at Ysleta Del Sur

Pueblo

, and now also the Houlton Band of Maliseet," said Leslie M. Smith,

IBM

business development executive and SeniorNet board chairman. "We are very pleased by the successes each tribe is experiencing with their new technology achievement centers, and SeniorNet is honored to work with

IBM

and other partner organizations on such a worthwhile and pioneering initiative."

The first Technology Achievement Center was opened at the Blackfeet Nation in Browning, M

ontana in September 2006. Since then, the 'Hope and Harmony for Humanity' collaborative has opened additional Technology Achievement Centers at the Leech

Lake

Band

of Ojibwe in

Cass Lake

,

Minnesota

and at the Tigua Tribe in Ysleta del sur Pueblo, Texas.

"Through 'Hope and Harmony for Humanity,' SeniorNet has extended its mission of bringing computer access and education to older adults to also include underserved populations," said

Kristin Fabos, SeniorNet chief operating officer. “These Technology Achievement Centers will not only serve the needs of seniors, but will bring the empowerment of computer literacy to all on the reservation. SeniorNet is extremely grateful to IBM for their generous support.”

In addition to computer training ranging from introductory to advanced courses, the Achievement Center will serve as an education center for the Maliseet community, offering classes on topics such as Family History and Genealogy, Health, Language Training, Work Skills, and Tutoring, as well as a host of life skills and enrichment curriculum.

About IBM

IBM is the world's largest information technology company, with over 90 years of leadership in helping businesses innovate. For more information about IBM, visit www.ibm.com.

About SeniorNet

Founded in 1986, SeniorNet is an international non-profit organization that has taught hundreds of thousands of adults age 50+ to use computers and the Internet and has enriched the lives of millions through its award-winning website, www.seniornet.org. With a thriving online community and a network of more than 130 locally run Learning Centers in the U.S. and abroad staffed by more than 3,500 volunteers, SeniorNet offers both offline and online destinations to a population that was originally neglected in the information revolution. With sponsorship by major corporations and foundations, private and public donations, and a backbone of individual members and contributors, SeniorNet continues to grow and offer new opportunities to those touched by its mission. SeniorNet headquarters is located in Santa Clara

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CA
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