

August 26, 2009

Donated computers presented to at-risk students

*Rick Oppenheim
Reader Submitted*

Twenty-five computers were presented Friday (August 21) to at-risk students in Leon County's Booker T. Washington Success Academy (BTWSA) program. The computers were donated by the Office of the Attorney General and have been completely refurbished by Lutheran Social Services (LSS) and FSU's College of Communication and Information (CCI).

The BTWSA is a school curriculum targeting young, at-risk males who have repeated at least one grade and have other challenges that potentially hinder them from graduating high school. The program focuses on providing these young men opportunities to enhance their educational and marketable skills while building their character and self-esteem and encouraging them to graduate. Participating students are selected for the program by Larry Thompson, coordinator of Special Projects for Leon Country schools.

"The Booker T. Washington Success Academy is an important tool in helping provide at-risk students the opportunity to succeed," said Thompson. "Everyone involved with this program, especially the participating students, appreciate General McCollum's donation and the commitment of volunteers at LSS and FSU's CCI in helping to refurbish these computers."

The BTWSA, sponsored by the Go Beyond Foundation, practices green computing programs, which asks for donations of computers less than 2 3 years old to be refurbished in accordance with a Microsoft certified refurbishing program. The Foundation has partnered with Capital City Rotary Club of Tallahassee, which donated \$25 per computer to cover the cost of software licenses. Refurbishment was conducted by Kristian Hogue, a student of FSU's CCI, under the supervision of Melissa Raulston, an IT Practicum Instructor at FSU.

"We thank Attorney General McCollum, Lutheran Social Services and FSU's College of Communication and Information for their support and dedication in making the Booker T. Washington Success Academy a priority," said Allan Stamm, director of the Go Beyond Foundation. "Their recognition and commitment as community-support partners enables the Go Beyond Foundation to establish green computing programs and provide refurbished computers to at-risk kids in need, helping to narrow the academic achievement gap."

The Go Beyond Foundation is a Tallahassee-based, not-for-profit organization committed to promoting leadership and programs that improve access to advanced technology and technical education experiences by providing enhanced educational opportunities. The Foundation helps manage and sustain all related organizational aspects of the Booker T. Washington Success Academy and also supports the City of Tallahassee's Digital Harmony Project. For more information, go to www.gobeyondfoundation.org.
