

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

CONTACT

Caroline Raeder
ITSMF
708-445-8585
caroline@wedgeworthbiz.com
www.itsmfonline.org

Information Technology Senior Management Forum (ITSMF) Hosts Summit with NCCU

Future African-American IT executives learn how to develop and advance careers

Batavia, Illinois – March 18, 2009 – While employment among African-American information technology (IT) professionals has risen to a post-Internet bust high, the percentage of blacks among all employed IT workers is lower than it was at the beginning of the decade, according to U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics data¹. To reverse this trend and encourage African-American students to enter this opportunity-filled profession, Information Technology Senior Management Forum (ITSMF) has partnered with North Carolina Central University (NCCU) to host a CIO Summit on Thursday, April 9, 2009, at 9:00 a.m. on the campus of NCCU in Durham, NC.

Premier event helps cultivate talent, create IT roadmap

“Fewer African-American students are pursuing a career in IT because they don’t see a clear career path to upper levels of management,” explains Zackarie Lemelle, Vice President, Johnson & Johnson Information Technology Corporate Systems and ITSMF chairperson. “The goal of the ITSMF/NCCU summit is to help African-American college and high school students see that there is indeed a future in IT as they hear first hand from successful African-American CIOs and CEOs at Fortune 500 companies.”

Junior-and senior-level college and select high school students will have the opportunity to learn how to develop and advance a career in IT throughout the ITSMF/NCCU CIO Summit, from speakers and group sessions to a career fair. In addition to NCCU, other schools participating in the CIO Summit include North Carolina A&T State University, Fayetteville State University,

¹ 1-25-2008 *CIO Insight* at <http://www.ciainsight.com/c/a/Workplace/IT-Diversity/>

St. Augustine's College, Shaw University, Duke University and North Carolina State University;
Josephine Dobbs Clement Early College High School and Hillside Business & Finance Academy.

Kicking off the day will be an IT Career Discussion Forum including the following panelists:

- Clifford Clarke, President – C2 IT Advisors, LLC
- Art Hopkins, President – Macquarium Intelligent Communications
- Stuart James, CIO – University Health Systems of Eastern Carolina
- Daphne Jones, VP IT and CIO of Ortho Clinical Diagnostics (a Johnson & Johnson company)
- Gregory Morrison, VP and CIO – COX Enterprises
- Fabomi Ojuola, President – CrestPoint Solutions, Inc.
- Robert Perrin, President and CEO – Magellan Associates, LLC
- Larry Quinlan, CIO – Deloitte
- Gail Roper, CIO – City of Austin
- M. Hans Delly, Managing Director – RTX Technology Partners
- Zack Lemelle VP, IT Corporate Systems– Johnson & Johnson

Students will also have an opportunity to interact with these panelists in intimate group settings and attend a career fair where many local Research Triangle Park companies will be recruiting.

Keynote Address stresses the “Power of One”

This year's keynote speaker has inspired hundreds of students across North Carolina to pursue higher education and consider a career in science and technology. In a presentation entitled “Corporate Social Responsibility,” Rene Daughtry, Technical Project Manager at Cisco, will talk with students about the importance of giving back to the community and what can be accomplished using the “Power of One.” Daughtry is also the leader of Cisco's Black Employees Network (CBEN), which established the Cisco Network Academies to offer students an educational foundation in information technology, which can be used to enter the field immediately or as a platform for higher education in science, technology, engineering and mathematics. Cisco Network Academies have been established at many of the schools attending the CIO Summit, as well as Halifax Community College and Elizabeth City State University. Cisco, the worldwide leader in networking that transforms how people connect, communicate and collaborate, is the primary sponsor of the ITSMF/NCCU CIO Summit.

ITSMF Partners with HBCU

This marks the second year that ITSMF has partnered with a Historically Black College and University (HBCU) to host a CIO Summit that encourages college and high school students to become the IT leaders of tomorrow. ITSMF plans to host another CIO Summit in the Fall.

“ITSMF’s mission is to fill the pipeline with the next generation of African-American IT executives and foster their career growth,” says Lemelle. “HBCUs like NCCU are a perfect partner for ITSMF, as we share a common goal of helping students realize their career dreams.”

“We are proud to work with ITSMF to showcase career opportunities in IT to our students and other college and high school students from North Carolina,” says Dr. Alisha D. Malloy, Ph.D. Lead Professor, Computer Information Systems, from NCCU.. “The career roadmap and advice they receive at the ITSMF/NCCU CIO Summit will be invaluable as they prepare to join the workforce in the not-too-distant future.”

About the Information Technology Senior Management Forum:

The Information Technology Senior Management Forum (ITSMF) is the only national organization dedicated exclusively to fostering senior-level executive talent among African-American IT professionals. ITSMF provides a supportive network for enhancing the leadership skills of the IT executives that make up the membership; and its formal mentoring program assists dedicated mid-level managers to grow into executive level positions. ITSMF draws its strength from two major sources: senior IT executives from corporations, governmental bodies, universities or owners of well-established technology businesses, who share the knowledge and skills that have enabled them to arrive and thrive in key management roles; and the funding and expertise provided by corporate partners interested in fostering and recruiting diverse executive talent. For more information about ITSMF, visit www.itsmfonline.org.

About North Carolina Central University:

NCCU is a comprehensive institution that offers bachelor’s degrees in more than 100 fields of study and awards graduate degrees in an estimated 40 disciplines. The University has a state-of-the-art biotechnology research institute, which collaborates with pharmacy and biotech companies in the much-touted Research Triangle Park area, where NCCU is found. Some programs are attracting students to NCCU, including the Institute for Homeland Security and Workforce Development, Biomanufacturing, Nursing, Education, Law, Business and Hospitality and Tourism.

###