



## **Technical and Leadership Skills Development**

### **Occupations in Demand**

In today's competitive business environment, organizations need to expand their traditional channels for finding highly trained, well motivated employees in order to maintain competitive advantages.

The Occupation Outlook Quarterly, winter 2011 edition, projects the highest employment growth rate over the next ten years is within service providing industries. These industries require high levels of education and training.

Futures assists traditional classroom educational activities through exposure to local Northeast Ohio business leaders and environments.

According to the Buckeye 50, a ten year projection of high-wage occupations in Ohio, more than 20% of these future positions are technology related, with the highest compensated jobs within an occupational cluster requiring program and leadership skills.

## **Futures**

Established by Classrooms To Corporations, Futures is an educational program within regional high schools that exposes students to technical and leadership skills. The program's foundation is centered on donated personal computers from area corporations.

The useful life of a computer is extended through refurbishing hardware and imaging software of donated computers, then redistributing to schools that meet the program's requirements. Students engage in the planning, operation and placement of the refurbished computers through a formal mentoring program.

While attending high school, a student participates in an 'Apprenticeship' program. Upon graduation, the student moves to an 'Internship' program, supported by the corporations that are engaged in the Futures program.



Technology skill sets are changing from standalone competencies to program based requirements. It's not enough to understand a single facet of a computing process. Tomorrow's technical leaders will need to possess the capacity to understand technology platforms and the abilities to integrate those platforms into business programs focusing on job creation, workflow efficiency and community needs.