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ITAA Releases IT Competency Model

Arlington, VA – The Information Technology Association of America (ITAA) and the U.S. Department of Labor’s Employment and Training Administration (DOL/ETA) have launched a new information technology (IT) competency model to help individuals prepare for job opportunities in the technology industry. The map will also help academic institutions update curricula, companies develop hiring criteria, and people from both communities work together to ensure a robust supply of domestic technology talent.

“We now have a common language for the dialogue between the educators and executives who are working together to rebuild the talent pipeline,” said ITAA President and CEO Phil Bond. “The next step is for the stakeholders to come together in a serious way and put this map to work for the sake of America’s competitiveness.”

ITAA partnered with DOL/ETA in November 2007 to develop the map, referred to as the Competency Model for the Information Technology (IT) Industry. The model provides a clear description of the knowledge, skills, and abilities necessary to perform well in IT professions.

Business and educational leaders, as well as economic development and public workforce professionals participated in focus groups at four locations across the country to shape the model. ITAA collaborated with local and regional industry associations to conduct focus groups in Seattle, Boston, Minneapolis, and the Washington, D.C. region. Participating regional IT associations were the Washington Technology Industry Association, Massachusetts Technology Leadership Council, Minnesota High Tech Association, the Northern Virginia Technology Council and the Technology Council of Maryland.

In conjunction with the Technology Councils of North America, over 40 regional technology groups in the U.S. and Canada, ITAA will distribute the model to industry executives, academics and other contacts across the country. Also in development is a wiki-based, interactive version of the skills map to enable its evolution with the changing needs of the marketplace.

The final Information Technology Competency Model can be viewed at: <http://www.careeronestop.org/COMPETENCYMODEL/pyramid.aspx?IT=Y>.

About ITAA

The Information Technology Association of America (ITAA) is the premier IT and electronics industry association working to maintain America's role as the world's innovation headquarters. Following its April 1, 2008 merger with the Government Electronics and Information Technology Association (GEIA), ITAA provides leadership in market research, standards development, business development, networking and public policy advocacy to some 350 corporate members doing business in the public and commercial sector markets. These members range from the smallest start-ups to industry leaders offering Internet, software, services and hardware solutions. ITAA offers the industry's only grassroots-to-global network, carrying the voice of IT to companies, markets and governments at the local, state, national and international levels to facilitate growth and advocacy. The Association maintains a formal alliance with more than 40 regional groups in the U.S. and Canada, representing 16,000 technology-related companies through the Technology Councils of North America. ITAA is also the U.S. member of the World Information Technology and Services Alliance, a network of nearly 70 industry associations from around the world. For more information, visit www.ita.org.