YOUTH EMPOWERMENT - A COMMUNITY PROJECT

There is a population that has access to computers, internet and technology, but

there still is a large segment of the US population that for primarily economic reasons do not or have access. If we don’t improve the access now, this entire generation of at risk people will be lost as productive, technologically competent learners and will impact the quality of the American workforce. Youth access to computers, internet and other technologies can be increased through the use of collaborations between the public, schools, private organizations, libraries and other governmental support.

Background

Technology is eclipsing any other social revolution at an amazing speed, creating

an entirely new cadre of learners, dubbed the Digital Generation. For better or worse today’s youth is surrounded by various modalities for information retrieval. As described in an introduction to digital learners on the Edutopia web site,

This Digital Generation uses the Internet, computers, cell phones, and

many other digital tools to learn and communicate in ways that were not

possible in previous generations….YouTube, MySpace, Facebook, and the

Ipod….It's about youth seizing new opportunities for engagement, selfdirected

learning, creativity, and initiative. (Staff, 2002)(Edutopia.com)

Research: Youth and Attitudes to Technology, states, “For young people,

technology is empowerment. The constant, unmediated connection with

peers that mobiles and the internet provide puts communication entirely on

their terms. It also signals independence - commonly among our

respondents owning a mobile phone is associated with graduating to

secondary school.” (Research: youth and attitudes to Technology, 2003)