

Certiport Chosen by Mississippi Department of Education to Revamp Tech Prep Program for K-12 Students

Multi-year initiative requires IC³ certification for teachers and provides validation in meeting state technology standards for seventh and eighth graders

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Certiport today announced the Mississippi Department of Education has selected Certiport Internet and Computing Core Certification (IC³®) for teachers and students across the state as a component essential to overhauling the 12-year-old Tech Prep program. Training and certification will be initially required of all information communications technology educators followed by an offering of training and potential certification to all seventh and eight grade students, making Mississippi a leader in becoming the first digitally literate state in the continental United States.

“Mississippi has made significant advances to prepare students to better compete in today’s economy,” said Dr. Hank Bounds, Mississippi state superintendent of education. “IC³ adds a measurable outcome to our Tech Prep curriculum that demonstrates the progress of our educational system in meeting national standards; but more importantly, it reflects our state’s commitment to higher education and the employment goals of our students.”

The enhancement to the Tech Prep program is part of a continuing investment of millions of dollars to provide leading-edge-technology training for Mississippi students. Mississippi’s commitment to technology in public education has included becoming the first state to connect all 34,000 classrooms across the state to the Internet.

Robin Parker, instructional design specialist at the Research and Curriculum Unit at Mississippi State University, was integral in updating the Tech Prep program for the state department of education. “Certiport IC³ is a very good fit for meeting the objectives of Tech Prep. It provides the validation of globally standardized skills needed to succeed academically and in the workplace.”

The changes to the program include an early start to basic-technology training in seventh grade where students will learn basic applications and desktop skills. In the eighth grade, students will be taught to incorporate their technical knowledge and skills into all other areas of education. Throughout the process, students will have the option to achieve Certiport IC³, which is a globally recognized standard for validating digital skills.

Certiport IC³ is the only universally accepted standard of digital literacy that provides students with the current and relevant skills they need to achieve academic and career success. Developed by an American organization through the collaboration of more than 270 subject matter experts from 19 countries, the IC³ standard is reviewed and updated every two years by the Global Digital Literacy Council, an international advisory board and authoritative voice on issues driving digital literacy. IC³ is endorsed by CompTIA as the foundational credential for all other technical certifications, aligned with NETS computing standards for students and teachers from the International Society for Technology in Education (ISTE), recommended for college credit by the American Council on Education (ACE) and promoted as a standard for digital literacy in the workplace by Oxford Cambridge Royal Society of Arts (OCR) in the United Kingdom.

“Mississippi has a proud history of adopting technology to enhance learning in the classroom,” said David Saedi, president and CEO of Certiport. “With the IC³ program for digital literacy, now students will not only have access to technology but also the opportunity to gain the current and relevant skills needed to advance their education, find and keep meaningful employment and become more effective citizens in the Digital Age.”

About Certiport

Certiport provides industry-leading training, assessment and certification solutions that enable individuals to develop the skills necessary to achieve more, distinguish themselves and advance in today's academic and business environments. These solutions include Certiport Internet and Computing Core Certification (IC³®), the Microsoft® Office Specialist certification program and Microsoft IT Academy delivered through a channel of more than 10,000 Certiport Centers worldwide. For more information about Certiport, visit www.certiport.com.

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