MONSTER.COM PARTNERS WITH ICOULDBE.ORG TO CREATE iSucceed

Program addresses high school dropout crisis, stewards students into family-sustaining careers

09.02.2010 – MCLEAN, VA, USA – In the global competition to maintain competitiveness in science, industry and the arts, education is fundamental. The high school dropout rate in the US has declined to 8% in 2009 from 14% in 1980, according to a 2010 US Department of Education study, an encouraging trend. However, a 1 in 12 dropout rate is still high, compared with standards in other developed societies.

Dropouts also occur AFTER students graduate – the transition from school to work can be jarring, especially for graduates from disadvantaged backgrounds. Succeeding in that first job can be a critical step to overall career achievement.

With the goal of addressing both of these issues, Monster.com has partnered with icouldbe.org and the Wright Resource Group to create iSucceed. “iSucceed is a comprehensive program that creates an environment enabling young people to explore career options, create context for their academic studies, build and practice soft skills, and prepare themselves for family-sustaining careers,” says Andy Vaughan, Monster.com Director of Strategic Programs. “The purpose of the program is to help increase graduation rates, reduce the achievement gap, and align skill sets with regional economic development priorities.” The initiative will combine online resources with live workshops, networking events, and job shadowing opportunities that will help reinforce the students’ desire to persist in their education.

Each entity in the partnership will address one of these three issues, based on their core competency. Monster.com’s Public Sector and Education (PSE) division will make students aware of career and educational opportunities, so that the candidate is well matched to the job. The Wright Resource Group will provide leadership training to young adult students and professionals; and icouldbe.org will offer online mentoring that pairs disadvantaged students with adult mentors through a curriculum-based program.

To find out how the program works, and how it is relevant to human resources
professionals, school administrators, members of business roundtables and local chambers, iSucceed will offer a free webinar on September 15. To sign up for the webinar, go to http://unleashtemonster.net/isucceed/.

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