CNS /Update Newsletter Feature

Computer Challenge Kickoff Set for Oct. 18, 2001

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The formal launch of the University of Florida's new Computer Challenge is set for Oct. 18, from 10:30 a.m.-noon, at the J. Wayne Reitz Union, room 282. The Challenge began this January, and allows faculty and staff to earn certificates in information technology topics by taking a series of workshops, classes, and online courses.

The seminar kicks off with an overview of the Challenge, demonstrations, presentations of the first certificates by Vice Provost Chuck Frazier, and a question and answer session. NERDC Associate Director Marie Dence says attendees will receive handouts packed with information about the Challenge and campus service providers. "This is an exciting time for IT training at UF. We've wanted something like the Challenge for years. Through the cooperation, time, and effort of all the training groups on campus, it's finally becoming a reality," said Dence. "This is a wonderful opportunity for UF faculty and staff."

The Computer Challenge consists of three areas of concentration, or "tracks." The Desktop Application skills track is designed for faculty, office staff, and other end users. The IT Provider track includes more technically-oriented courses for IT professionals and other more advanced users. Also available are speciality tracks, such as the UF Communications Network (UFCN) track.

NERDC helps maintain one of the computer training resources, NETg online courses, which are funded by the Office of the Provost. NERDC also participates on the committee behind the Challenge. Other training resources that comprise the Challenge include courses offered through the Center for Instructional Technology and Training (CITT, formerly called the Faculty Support Center), University Personnel Services (UPS), CIRCA, the Health Science Center, Division of Continuing Education, and others. A list of current course offerings is available at [http://www.it-train.ufl.edu](http://www.it-train.ufl.edu).

To participate in the Computer Challenge, just take a designated course from one of the IT training providers listed above. For CITT courses, let the unit know you're participating in the Computer Challenge and they'll send the information to UPS. To get credit for a NETg course, you must complete the tests for an entire course. Then, either contact the NETg administrator at online-training-l@lists.ufl.edu or the training facilitator of your group, who will forward verification to UPS.

For more information about the Computer Challenge or the Kickoff, contact Marie Dence at NERDC, (352) 392-2061, mdence@ufl.edu, or Jodi Gentry, UPS Training and Development, at (352) 392-4626, jodi-gentry@ufl.edu.

Your Comments are Welcome

We welcome your comments and suggestions on this and all UFIT documentation. Please send your comments to:
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