



**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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**FOR MORE INFORMATION:**

(419) 995-8040

**Free IT Training Available at Rhodes State College**

LIMA, OH- Unemployed and underemployed individuals with basic computer skills could qualify for free training for entry-level information technology positions.

The iSTAR IT specialist program provides free tuition, books and paid on-the-job training. Applications are being accepted for a session that begins January 12, 2015, with prerequisite coursework starting as early as November.

Classes are eight hours per day and will be held Monday through Friday, for 16 weeks, at Rhodes State College, 4240 Campus Drive, Lima. The training prepares workers for jobs such as software engineer and computer systems analyst.

Matt Kinkley Executive Director for Workforce Development at Rhodes State College, said, "This program has the potential to impact a lot of people throughout Northwest Ohio because it provides quality industry-driven education."

iSTAR, which stands for Innovative Strategic Training Achieving Results, is funded by a grant from the U.S. Department of Labor. The classes are being offered through a partnership with Northwest State Community College (NSCC) in Archbold, Ohio and WSOS Community Action, a non-profit based in Fremont, Ohio.

Students who complete the course will receive 18 weeks of paid, on-the-job training with the goal of continued employment. Graduates will receive industry certifications as well as a Database Programming Certificate from Northwest State. All credits earned through the program can be applied toward an associate degree at Rhodes State.

For more information or to complete an online application, visit <https://istar-initiative.com/> or call Traci Cox at Rhodes State, (419) 995-8040 or Sarah Stubblefield of Northwest State, (419) 267-1512.

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