



For information contact:
Brian Burke
952-831-6672
brian.burke@na.manpower.com

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Number of Technical Workers in the Twin Cities to Expand
Manpower and AccessAbility Train the Unemployed for Technical Jobs

MINNEAPOLIS – May 4, 2002 – Skilled, certified and computer savvy– this isn't the typical image of a long-term welfare recipient. Yet, a joint project from workforce solutions provider Manpower Inc. and AccessAbility, Inc., a nonprofit social service agency, is training current long-term welfare recipients in the Twin Cities area for entry-level technical careers.

The project is a local version of TechReach – Manpower's national workforce development program. TechReach unites the expertise of businesses, community-based organizations and government agencies to train underemployed, low-skilled individuals for well-paying technical careers in information technology and other high demand industries. Successful graduates of Twin Cities TechReach will have career opportunities as PC technicians, help desk representatives and desktop support specialists – some of the technical positions most needed by employers in the Minneapolis/St. Paul metropolitan area today.

"The collaborative approach of TechReach is what makes it unique," said Ron Ramler, Manpower regional vice president for the upper Midwest region. "TechReach allows each partner to use its core strength whether it be funding, training, recruiting or employment – to help move low-skilled, underserved populations into real financial and social independence."

Under the program, Manpower provides its industry-leading assessment systems, job-readiness training and mentoring as well as an instructor for its technical curriculum called REALskills!™. The global staffing leader is also securing local employers to provide work experience and career track opportunities for TechReach graduates.

"TechReach strengthens the community by creating a new source of skilled, work-ready employees and enriching the diverse workforce of area businesses," said Ramler.

"There are many capable individuals in our welfare system who have not had a true opportunity for success," said Barbara Arnold, president of AccessAbility, Inc. "TechReach provides that opportunity through comprehensive assessments, intense training and job placements.

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Our business partners can hire dedicated, highly skilled employees, and TechReach participants are placed on the fast track to career success.”

Twin Cities TechReach is being conducted at AccessAbility’s facility at 360 Hoover Street NE, Minneapolis. Currently, 14 individuals are enrolled in the first phase of two training cycles of the pilot program. All are participants in the Minnesota Family Investment Program in Hennepin County.

Manpower encourages businesses that wish to hire or provide work experience opportunities to Twin Cities TechReach graduates to contact Brian Burke of Manpower at 952-831-6672 or brian.burke@na.manpower.com.

About Manpower

Manpower Inc. is a world leader in the staffing industry, providing workforce management services and solutions to customers through 3,900 offices in 61 countries. The firm annually provides employment to two million people worldwide and is an industry leader in employee assessment and training. In North America, Manpower staffing services include administrative, industrial and contact center personnel as well as the assignment of contract professionals in information technology, scientific, finance, engineering, telecommunications and other professional areas under the Manpower Professional brand. More information on the company can be found at www.us.manpower.com.

About AccessAbility

AccessAbility, Inc. is a nonprofit rehabilitation agency and production / training facility that provides self sufficiency opportunities for adults with employment barriers. The agency's consumers include people with cognitive and physical disabilities, new immigrants, and individuals transitioning from welfare to work. Through a wide variety of services offered to the business community, AccessAbility provides training and work experience to a diverse population. It is committed to use technology in order to expand skilled jobs and careers for more than 450 individuals. AccessAbility also provides an array of recreational and leisure programs to impact more aspects of the lives of individuals served and to promote community inclusion. More information on the business can be found at www.accessability.org.

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