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NEWS

CyberSmart! Featured at Mayor's Commission on Literacy Event (Philadelphia)

May 12, 2005

The Mayor's Commission on Literacy's annual Computers in Adult Literacy Conference featured a workshop led by Jim Teicher, CyberSmart's CEO and Executive Director. The workshop was titled:

"Playing Catch Up With Our Children – CyberSmart! Cyber Literacy for Adults"

- Teicher introduced and discussed CyberSmart!'s model of information literacy education as it can be applied to adult learners. Key issued presented:
 - The Internet impacts teaching and learning regardless of whether the learner is a young child, a teen, or an adult.
 - We live in a digital world and most work environments embrace technology. Adult learners are either part of, or soon to enter (or reenter) the workforce. Solid information literacy skills are a distinct advantage in the job market.
 - Adults need to play catch-up with younger peoples' computer abilities. This is important in order to responsibly supervise and guide young people, and to participate more fully in today's digital world for both learning and living.
 - The CyberSmart! S-M-A-R-T approach to building information fluency can be adapted and applied by teachers for use with adult learners.

Safety: Using the Internet safely

Manners: Social, legal and ethical responsibilities, reducing plagiarism

Advertising: Commercial messages and protecting privacy

Research: Questioning, inquiry skills, and problem solving skills

Technology: Secure computing practices

About the Mayor's Commission on Literacy

www.philaliteracy.org

Formed in 1983, the Mayor's Commission on Literacy was the first literacy agency in the country to be established by a local governing body. While there were literacy activities underway in Philadelphia at that time, general awareness of the extent of the need was limited. To address this issue, the city had to focus attention on the literacy needs of its adults, coordinate the efforts of existing programs, and provide educational opportunities for increased numbers of adults. The MCOL was established to ensure that quality education is available to equip all

adults in Philadelphia with the literacy skills necessary for the workforce, parenting, and community life.

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