

**Local nonprofit wins state award for  
technology community outreach program**

**May 2005**

WinstonNet, a Winston-Salem based community technology partnership, won the sixth annual Research Triangle Park RTPnet Award recognizing WinstonNet for providing free computer/internet access and skills training to community residents. The award was presented at the 6th Annual RTPnet Conference on May 20, 2005. The Research Triangle Park RTPnet Award recognizes individuals, organizations and businesses that have made significant contributions to North Carolina communities in the area of information and computer technology.

WinstonNet, Inc. is a nonprofit community technology initiative with the goal of bridging the digital divide that currently exists in Forsyth County. In the past 18 months, 40 computer labs with 350 plus computers were established throughout the county: 18 Winston-Salem City Parks and Recreation computer labs, 10 public library labs and 12 labs established by Winston-Salem State University in area churches and other underserved areas.

WinstonNet is considered a national prototype in the goal of bridging the digital divide. WinstonNet's business model is built on using recycled computers and connecting them to a citywide network where they share central resources making it easier and more cost effective to maintain and support computers in the field. Members of WinstonNet include Forsyth County Government, Forsyth Technical Community College, Idealliance, Salem College, North Carolina School of the Arts, Wake Forest University, Wake Forest University School of Medicine, the Winston-Salem Chamber of Commerce, Winston-Salem/Forsyth County Schools, Winston-Salem City Government and Winston-Salem State University.

The theme of the RTPnet conference was "Bridging North Carolina's Human/Digital Divide" RTPnet is a 501 (c)(3) nonprofit corporation dedicated to helping North Carolina nonprofit organizations leverage internet tools to promote and support their missions.

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