



GATES TAKES STAND FOR LEARNING

Arguably the biggest name in the technology industry recently went to bat for workplace learning.

In March, Microsoft Chairman Bill Gates addressed the United States Senate Committee on Health, Education, Welfare, and Pensions about the need for improved workforce training. His two-hour testimony suggested that both private and public sectors must take responsibility to address the current and future skills gap in the American workforce.

"As a nation, our goal should be to ensure that, by 2010, every job seeker, every displaced worker, and every individual in the U.S. workforce has access to the education and training they need to succeed in the knowledge economy," Gates told the committee. "This means embracing the concept of 'lifelong learning' as part of the normal career path of American workers, so that they can use new technologies and meet new challenges. Workforce enhancement should be treated as a matter of national competitive survival."

Gates also recommended that Congress should commit to improve high school education, promote science and math learning on both the secondary and post-secondary levels, and increase the number of H-1B visas available for highly skilled foreign workers.

MORE/www.help.senate.gov/Hearings/2007_03_07/Gates.pdf

// MONEY MATTERS //

The Price of Execution

A new survey by Expertus, a provider of strategic training outsourcing services, and outsourcing services consultant TrainingOutsourcing.com taps into the costs of corporate training administration and operations.

Results show that administrative expenses are high in some organizations. The findings include

- Seven percent of respondents said their companies spent more than 50 percent of their training budgets on administration and operations; 10 percent spent between 36 and 50 percent; and 30 percent spent 20 to 35 percent of their budgets.
- Only 15 percent of the respondents thought administrative-related spending was too high, and 65 percent thought it was "about right."
- Approximately 60 percent of respondents expected spending on administration and operations to increase during the next two years; 16 percent projected spending would stay the same; 5 percent predicted it would decrease; and 18 percent said spending would likely fluctuate.
- Seventy percent believed that the biggest administrative efficiencies could be gained by upgrading current technology. Respondents rated adding additional staff (35 percent) and increasing staff training (28 percent) as other changes that could improve efficiency.
- The most common administrative and operational functions used for training was program scheduling, followed by program evaluations, material fulfillment, registration services, and student and program reporting.
- Administrative challenges most frequently listed by respondents were heavy workloads (57 percent), inadequate technical support (47 percent), limited budget (40 percent), and lack of qualified personnel (40 percent).

MORE/www.expertus.com/survey/results5/TrainingAdmin.pdf