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**DIGITAL ECONOMY 2003 SAYS U.S. TECHNOLOGY INDUSTRY SHOWING SIGNS OF NEW GROWTH**

The U.S. technology industry is showing healthy growth for the first time since the Internet collapse of two years ago, but jobs and wages still are down, says a new federal report on the state of the digital economy. *Digital Economy 2003* <http://www.esa.doc.gov/DigitalEconomy2003.cfm> reports that the increased use of Information Technology throughout the economy is once again driving very rapid productivity and output growth. The report predicts steady but moderate growth among technology companies and said technology investments are helping fuel growth in other areas. Sales by U.S. technology companies and their overseas affiliates topped \$1 trillion in 2002, despite a record foreign trade deficit.

**NEW REPORT EXAMINES TRENDS IN RESIDENTIAL BROADBAND MARKET**

Nothing in the performance of the residential broadband market suggests that federal subsidies or other government intervention will enhance the market from the perspective of economic efficiency, concludes the Congressional Budget Office (CBO) in a new report, *Does the Residential Broadband Market Need Fixing?* CBO prepared the report for the Senate Budget Committee, reviewing recent trends in the market for residential fast Internet access to determine whether impediments exist to the market's growth. Since 1999, the adoption of broadband services by households and businesses has increased at a rapid rate. As of December 2002, 17.4 million households and small businesses subscribed to high-speed lines for Internet access, compared to just 1.8 million in December 1999. Also, in 1999, more than 40 percent of the nation's zip codes had no broadband service subscribers. By the end of 2002, the number had dipped to 12 percent. However, the CBO did not consider concerns over equity in access and regional economic development. The report is available at <http://www.cbo.gov/showdoc.cfm?index=4868&sequence=0>

**ELEANOR ROOSEVELT TEACHER FELLOWSHIP APPLICATIONS DUE JAN. 10th**

The American Association of University Women (AAUW) invites applications for the Eleanor Roosevelt Teacher Fellowships, which improve girls' learning opportunities in math, science and technology. Professional development awards of up to \$5,000 each will fund K-12 public school teachers for professional development workshops or conferences and gender-equity studies, provide seed money for teachers to plan a gender-equity school-based program, and cover their attendance at the Eleanor Roosevelt Teacher Institute held in July, 2004 in Washington, D.C. Women public school teachers may also apply for project implementation awards of up to \$10,000 and dissemination awards of up to \$2,000.

Applications are due Jan.10, 2004. More information is available at:  
[http://www.aauw.org/fga/fellowships\\_grants/eleanor\\_roosevelt.cfm](http://www.aauw.org/fga/fellowships_grants/eleanor_roosevelt.cfm)

### **REPORT EXAMINES BRIBERY'S EFFECT ON INTERNATIONAL BUSINESS & GOVERNMENTS**

In 1977, the United States became the first country to criminalize bribery of foreign officials. Other countries recognized bribes as a business expense, or simply looked the other way. In the 1990s, Commerce Secretaries Mickey Kantor and Bill Daley helped launch and conclude an OECD Convention on Bribery and Corruption outlawing such practices internationally, which has now been ratified by all 35 OECD countries. Each year, the U.S. Commerce Department does a survey to estimate the level of existing bribery. This year's Commerce Department survey found that about 40 major contracts worldwide, valued at \$23 billion, were likely influenced by bribes in the year 2002. This is down from earlier years when the number was estimated at 60. (See <http://www.tcc.mac.doc.gov/cgi-bin/doi.cgi?226:54:39995996:17>) It may fall further, more than 100 countries are currently signing on to the United Nations' "Merida Convention," an agreement which covers topics such as government procurement, bribery and money-laundering, and provides stronger legal grounds for freezing the overseas assets of corrupt officials. At the same time, the United States has fallen from 14<sup>th</sup> place to 18<sup>th</sup> on a ranking developed by NGO Transparency International. The ranking is based on surveys of businesses, scholars, and market analysts about perceptions of corruption in 135 countries. For more information, see Transparency International, 2003 Index: [http://www.transparency.org/pressreleases\\_archive/2003/2003.10.07.cpi.en.html](http://www.transparency.org/pressreleases_archive/2003/2003.10.07.cpi.en.html)

### **U.S. STATE DEPARTMENT'S EDUCATION AND CULTURAL EXCHANGE PROGRAM BUDGET CUT**

The House and Senate Appropriations Committees currently propose \$320 billion for Department of State (DOS) educational and cultural exchange programs, which is less than the \$345 million the House originally passed in July but more than the \$255 million the Senate had proposed. It provides \$1.6 million for the Gilman Scholarship Program (a slight increase) and \$3.5 million for overseas advising centers (a slight decrease.) For Title IV and Fulbright-Hays programs, the bill includes \$91.4 million for Title VI (Title VI A and B received a cut of \$3.5 million, which is half the cut originally proposed by the Senate), and \$12.9 million for Fulbright-Hays programs (same as last year.) To view the omnibus bill in detail, access: <http://thomas.loc.gov/home/approp/app04.html>

### **RADIO SERIES LEADERSHIP ACROSS BOUNDARIES PROFILES GRASSROOTS LEADERS**

A new, four-part radio series, entitled "Leadership Across Boundaries," profiles the work of innovative grassroots leaders who are addressing challenges in communities across the world. The series is based on interviews conducted at a summer 2003 conference in Salzburg, Austria that brought together 80 citizen leaders from 27 countries. Among those featured are Calvin Head, Executive Director of the West Holmes Community Development Organization in Tchula, Mississippi and Freddy Webb-Pettet, Coordinator of the Mid South Delta Initiative. Listen to conversations with these and other leaders by going to <http://www.wkkf.org/Programming/NewsItem.aspx?CID=148&ID=2> and clicking on the appropriate links.

### **REPORT SAYS MORE AMERICANS VOLUNTEERING AND TEEN VOLUNTEERS INCREASING**

Twenty-nine percent of Americans were involved in volunteer service in 2003-up from 27 percent in 2002-according to figures that were just released by the U.S. Department of Labor. Although 35 to 54 year-olds are still the most likely to volunteer, the rate of increase was highest among teens. Whites were found to volunteer at a higher rate than other groups, with 31 percent performing volunteer service, compared with 20 percent for blacks, 19 percent for Asians, and 16 percent for Hispanics. More than two-thirds of volunteers performed service for just one organization-most often a religious or education/youth service organization. The data on volunteering was collected through a supplement to the 2003 *Current Population Survey*. For more details, see <http://www.bls.gov/news.release/pdf/volun.pdf>

### **JOHN GLENN INSTITUTE SEEKS NOMINATIONS FOR SERVICE LEARNING PROJECTS**

The John Glenn Institute for Public Service and Public Policy is seeking to recognize scholars whose work contributes to advancing the understanding or adoption of service learning in K-12 schools. In addition to recognition as a "John Glenn Scholar in Service-Learning," awardees will receive a \$1,000 honorarium and will have their work publicized on a national level. Up to five scholars will be recognized in 2004, including at least one undergraduate or graduate student. There is a January 16 deadline for those whose work focuses on civic education/participation or academic outcomes/cognitive development related to service learning. The deadline is March 12 for student scholars as well as for those whose work relates to teacher education around the topic of service learning. Applicants must submit a copy of their curriculum vitae as

well as a copy of a new or previously published research paper on service learning. For more information, see [http://www.glenninstitute.org/glenn/acrobat\\_downloads/SLSBrochure.pdf](http://www.glenninstitute.org/glenn/acrobat_downloads/SLSBrochure.pdf)

### **REPORT MAPS OUT WORKFORCE FUNDING STREAMS AND FRUSTRATIONS FOR NY WORKERS AND EMPLOYERS**

A new report by the Center for an Urban Future and the New York Association of Training and Employment Professionals, *Seeking Workforce System: A Graphical Guide to Employment and Training Services in New York*, maps 30 different funding streams "with little, if any, clear guiding policy or principle to connect them." The report provides a detailed matrix of workforce-related spending that breaks down the dollars by source, clientele, services, and other measures. "You will immediately grasp the frustration of the dual customers for workforce services-jobseekers and employers-who have to grapple daily with the collection of programs detailed in this document without the help of a handy guide to figure out which programs offer what services to which groups." To view the report, see [http://www.nycfuture.org/content/reports/report\\_view.cfm?repkey=130&search=1](http://www.nycfuture.org/content/reports/report_view.cfm?repkey=130&search=1)

### **NEW REPORT EXAMINES THE RACIAL & ETHNIC ACHIEVEMENT GAPS IN AMERICAN EDUCATION**

The Educational Testing Service released a report on the racial and ethnic achievement gaps in American education, concluding that the gaps have deep roots that extend far beyond the schoolhouse. In *Parsing the Achievement Gap: Baselines for Tracking Progress*, ETS's Policy Information Center identifies the factors before, during and after school that create and perpetuate gaps student in achievement. It calls on policy makers to address all of the factors-in school and out-that weave together to keep African-American and Hispanic students from catching up academically. To see the report, go to: <http://www.ets.org/news/03111801.html>

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### **BECOME A MEMBER OF SOUTHERN GROWTH**

Become a part of shaping the future of the South. Nonprofit organizations and individuals can become associate members of Southern Growth Policies Board for as little as \$250 per year, while corporations can join for just \$1,000 per year. Members are entitled to discounted registration fees at conferences, copies of Southern Growth reports and publications, and other benefits. Members who join at a higher level can also participate in Southern Growth's standing advisory councils with other public and private sector leaders from around the region. For more information go to <http://www.southern.org/main/membership.shtml> or contact Mary Williams at [mwilliams@southern.org](mailto:mwilliams@southern.org) or (919) 941-5145.

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**Southern Compass** is compiled from reports from the Southern Technology Council, the Southern Global Strategies Council, the Council on a New Economy Workforce, the Council on the Southern Community and Southern Growth staff.

**SOUTHERN GROWTH POLICIES BOARD** is a non-partisan public policy think tank based in Research Triangle Park, North Carolina. Formed by the region's governors in 1971, Southern Growth Policies Board develops and advances visionary economic development policies by providing a forum for collaboration among a diverse cross-section of the region's governors, legislators, business and academic leaders and the economic- and community-development sectors. Supported by the governments of 13 Southern states and Puerto Rico, Southern Growth provides its members, and the region, with authoritative research, discussion forums and pilot projects in the areas of technology and innovation, globalization, workforce development, community development, civic engagement and leadership. To learn more about Southern Growth Policies Board, visit [www.southern.org](http://www.southern.org).

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