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For immediate release

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## **Yakima Valley Libraries Partners with State Library and Microsoft to Bring Technology Training to Our Patrons**

Yakima, WA- More than 50% of today's jobs require some technology skills, experts say that number could increase to 77% in the next decade. Within 10 years, 60% of the jobs that will be available don't even exist today. How are you preparing yourself for these rapid technology changes?

Through a partnership with Microsoft, the Washington State Library received funds from the legislature to offer Microsoft IT Academy to libraries at no cost. What does this mean? Starting today thousands of Microsoft classes in a number of different languages will be available at your fingertips. How can you utilize this free service? Go to your local Yakima Valley Libraries branch and obtain an access code from the staff there. Then check out our website at [www.yvl.org](http://www.yvl.org) and access the Microsoft IT Academy Link, create an account on their database and enter your access code. From there you can set up your chosen courses and start learning!

If you have any questions about setting up your account Yakima Valley Libraries staff is able to help. We also have computers available for your use at our branches.

“Offering Microsoft IT Academy through Yakima Valley Libraries means that everyone will have an opportunity to access these technologies and build new skills for a better job, career, help at school or just to learn something new. Yakima Valley Libraries supports lifelong learn for all of our patrons and this is a great new product to share with our community. We look forward to continuing to bring these innovative services to the Yakima Valley.” Kim Hixson, Yakima Valley Libraries Director.

Yakima Valley Libraries strives to support lifelong learning and an informed citizenry by providing free, open and full access to a vast array of ideas and information. We look forward to serving you.

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