

## Public School Students and Staff Earn 200,000 Microsoft Certifications

By Administrator

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RALEIGH, (SGRToday.com) - Nearly five years after the launch of the nation's first statewide Microsoft IT Academy, North Carolina students and teachers have earned more than 200,000 professional certifications, according to a Department of Public Instruction announcement.

Eighteen North Carolina high school students who earned top honors in the 2015 NC Microsoft Office Specialist (MOS) competition were recognized for their achievement at the recent State Board of Education meeting.

"Over the past five years, North Carolina's Microsoft IT Academy has saved students and teachers more than \$20 million in certification costs and enabled them to build valuable technology skills required by today's employers," said Superintendent of Public Instruction June Atkinson in the posting on the department's website. "The Microsoft IT Academy is one example of how Career and Technical Education courses can enrich learning, shape career paths and change students' lives."

The Microsoft IT Academy offers digital access to instructional curriculum and certifications that enable students to learn productivity applications such as Microsoft Word, PowerPoint, Excel and Access, as well as the fundamental skills necessary in the studies of Computer Science and IT Infrastructure.