



## **We Connect The Dots, Inc. Announces Technology Workforce Development Initiative in Partnership with Microsoft Serving Atlanta, GA Youth**

**Westbury, NY May 25, 2022** – We Connect the Dots (WCTD), a national educational organization based on Long Island, NY, announced the UpSkill Workforce Experience Program for opportunity youth (ages 18-24) in partnership with Microsoft to empower Atlanta youth with skills for entry level jobs and career paths in technology.

Funded by Microsoft Datacenter Community Development to empower the region, Microsoft partners with education institutions and community-led organizations to foster social, environmental, and inclusive economic opportunities by supporting workforce development, skills training, and access to technology.

WCTD and Microsoft saw a clear path where they could develop common solutions to the region's labor issues, and collectively invest in Atlanta's workforce, providing workforce skills training and experience as well as social skill development to unemployed, underemployed, and out-of-school youth. Through partnership with local community and industry partners, participants are placed in workforce experience positions that can lead to full-time entry-level positions after completing the training program.

Beginning in the Spring 2022, participants can apply to attend the We Connect the Dots eight-week UpSkill Workforce Experience Program for unemployed, under-employed and out of school youth (ages 18-24) to empower them with skills for entry level jobs and career paths in technology.

- *“We’re honored to collaborate with Education, Industry, Government and Community to remove barriers to work and increase access to good jobs for low-income communities. We look forward to creating a more diverse workforce by building capacity and a pipeline of talent from underutilized populations in Atlanta.”, Laurie Carey, Board Chair, WCTD*
- *“Microsoft is excited to work with We Connect the Dots to bridge the unemployment gap for our youth. We look forward to seeing the increase of young, talented and diverse individuals in the local workforce. They are the most important group we can invest in for the future of the Atlanta community,” said Gaby DelaGarza, Senior Director of Microsoft Datacenter Community Development.*

### **About We Connect The Dots (WCTD)**

*We Connect The Dots (WCTD) is a nonprofit organization with a mission to utilize cognitive learning and coaching models to create positive outcomes across communities. Where technology is used as a tool for supporting productive and engaging learning experiences. We Connect the Dots provides program offerings for underrepresented populations. To model and teach how technology increases potential and productivity, we must understand it in real-world applications. We support communities by providing experiential learning programs to populations that would normally not have access or the resources to provide these immersive education programs. <https://www.we-connect-the-dots.org/upskill>*