

Forum Held to Help Students Focus on Technology Careers

(Targeted News Service Via Acquire Media NewsEdge) MONTGOMERY, Ala., October 27 -- Alabama State University issued the following news release: ASU's College of Business Administration joined forces with software giant, the Oracle company, to host a technology forum for students on Wednesday, October 27, 2011; College of Business Administration (COBA) partnered with the Oracle company for a technology forum at the John L. Buskey Health Sciences Building on ASU's campus.

Oracle is the second largest software company in the world. The Oracle Academy provides universities with software programs, training and curricula to help prepare students for 21st century technology careers.

Dr. Le-Quita Booth, dean of the College of Business Administration, said the Oracle Academy is very beneficial to ASU students because it provides them with industry-relevant skills before they enter the workforce. "We will be able to have our students certified at different levels; this will make them more competitive in the marketplace," Booth said. "Technology is a key element in any job search. We want students at Alabama State University as prepared as any other students in the world, and that's the edge that having an Oracle Academy here will give us." This is the first time Oracle representatives have held this type of forum for students.

"We chose Alabama State University because ASU has a very active Oracle Academy. The Academy allows students to gain 21st century technical skills and exposure to current technology on top of the great theoretical foundation that they are getting here," said Denise Hobbs, regional director of the Oracle Academy.

Houston Thompson, a COBA student majoring in accounting, said he gained a lot from the forum. "You are going to be working with a variety of people and you are going to need to know a variety of things. When you expose yourself to these different areas you become better able to communicate because the real world is fierce and you need to be prepared in all areas in order to compete in the job market," Thompson said.

Dr. John F. Knight, Jr., ASU's executive vice president and chief operating officer, said he is excited about the University's partnership with Oracle. "Technology is the wave of the future," Knight said. "Students must be technologically savvy in order to compete in a global economy. Alabama State University is committed to making sure our students are prepared to compete." Students who participate in the Oracle Academy will have the opportunity to become Oracle-certified software associates while they are still in school.

Students from the IT Academy at Montgomery's Robert E. Lee High School, where COBA administrators are establishing an Oracle Academy, also attended the forum. Charles Morrow is an IT Academy teacher at Lee High School. He said this is a great opportunity for his students. "I think the Oracle Academy will give our students a great career track. We are very excited and grateful to ASU for its support," Morrow said.

For more information on ASU's Oracle Academy, contact the College of Business Administration at 334-229-4142.

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