

BREAKING DOWN BARRIERS . BRINGING SMART BUSINESS SOLUTIONS . BUILDING A MORE INCLUSIVE WORLD

MELWOOD'S abilIT

A program designed to prepare people with disabilities to enter careers in technology fields.

In partnership with Cybrary, abilIT leads participants through an intensive training program consisting of technical training and professional and personal development. abilIT is designed to ensure participants are equipped with both the know-how and soft skills necessary to join and succeed on any project team.

With approximately 350,000 unfilled positions in the computer science industry, the demand for entry-level technology staff has never been higher. abilIT offers a solution that leverages the untapped potential and talent of people with disabilities, who are often underemployed. This program creates a top-quality IT workforce solution for employers who want to benefit from a neurodiverse workforce, as well as a pathway to meaningful employment for people with disabilities.

Melwood's career exploration programs help people with disabilities achieve their employment goals and prepare for future success. As part of this program, Melwood educates employers to help create an inclusive, accommodating workplace for all.

abilIT graduates have found careers or internships at:

MITRE

GDIT

KPMG



PROGRAM OVERVIEW

Melwood's abilIT is a 14-week program offered in partnership with Cybrary, creator of the most extensive massive open online course in the cybersecurity arena. By pairing innovative, highly technical training with personalized soft skills instruction, abilIT equips participants with the skills they need to build lifelong careers as competitive technology professionals through job search assistance, placement, and on-the-job coaching. During weeks 1-5, students participate in an IT Fundamentals Assessment. In the remaining weeks, students choose a skilled track to pursue, including options such as IT Systems, App Dev, and Microsoft Office. After completing the course, students will be prepared to sit for A+ certification, Network+ certification, or Security+ certification, which can lead to entry-level jobs in IT career fields. Melwood also works to connect abilIT graduates with employers who have been trained on how to create an inclusive environment that encourages employees to succeed.

PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT TRAINING CURRICULUM OUTCOMES INCLUDE:

- The skills to compete for entry-level information technology positions
- The ability to sit for A+, Network+, and Security+ certifications
- The soft skills necessary to land a job and work effectively as part of a project team (including resume and cover letter building, interview skills, teleworking and networking guidelines)

MINIMUM REQUIREMENTS

People with disabilities with either a high school diploma, GED, or equivalent are eligible for admission. Veterans living with post-traumatic stress or a service-related injury are also encouraged to apply.

Melwood is a leading employer, advocate, and preferred provider for people with disabilities. Devoted to creating a world in which disabled people are fully included since 1963, Melwood's innovative strategies and programs empower people with disabilities to live, work and thrive in the community.



Interested in learning more or signing up for our next cohort?
Contact: Elizabeth Foster at abilIT@Melwood.org

