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Cincinnati nonprofit Cooperative for Education earns national recognition from Microsoft in Guatemala

Contributed By: Cooperative for Education | Cooperative for Education

On Saturday, July 14, computer teachers at centers established in Guatemala by Cincinnati nonprofit Cooperative for Education (CoEd) took multiple top prizes in the country-wide Partners in Learning competition held by Microsoft. This is the second year in a row that CoEd Computer Center teachers have been chosen as Guatemala's winners. They will now go on to the next phase of international competition in Lima, Peru.

CoEd sent six teachers to compete against other technology educators from all over Guatemala. Of those six, Juan Oliva of La Labor received third place in the "collaboration" category, Karen Morales of Chicamán won first place in the "collaboration" category, and Rafael Aceytuno of Sacapulas won first place in the "extending learning beyond the classroom" category.

Morales and Aceytuno will advance to the regional competition to be held in Lima, Peru in September, facing off against educators from 20 countries in Latin America. (One of last year's Guatemalan winners, CoEd Computer Center teacher Danilo Noriega, took top honors at the regional competition.)

"Receiving multiple awards at the national level for the second year in a row is a remarkable achievement for our Computer Center teachers," said Joe Berninger of CoEd. "Through their talent and dedication, the local teachers make optimal use of the equipment and training provided through CoEd. Working together, we have an amazing opportunity to impact the lives of Guatemalan youths."

To date, CoEd has established 52 sustainable Computer Centers in Guatemala, serving more than 16,000 students. Eighty-three percent of the students go on to use the skills they learn in the centers to pursue further education or higher-paying jobs. The program's innovative revolving fund ensures that the centers will continue to educate Guatemalan youths for generations to come. To learn more about the program, visit www.cooperativeforeducation.com/computers.

Cooperative for Education was founded in 1996 by Cincinnati brothers and graduates of Xavier University, Joe and Jeff Berninger. CoEd's mission is to help Guatemalan schoolchildren break the cycle of poverty through education. CoEd works to accomplish this mission by creating self-

sustaining textbook, computer center, and literacy programs within impoverished community schools. These programs are designed to improve traditional and technological literacy, which are the cornerstones of economic development. More information, including details on joining CoEd for a six-day volunteer trip to Guatemala, can be found at www.cooperativeforeducation.org.



CoEd Computer Division staff members and Computer Center teachers at the Microsoft Partners in Learning competition in Guatemala.

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