NEWS OF JOBS

Program Offers Help To Displaced Workers ℗

(NAPSA)—Many displaced workers are taking advantage of free or reduced-price training programs that will extend their skills and improve employability.

For example, the Autodesk Assistance Program offers designers, engineers and architects the design software tools, education and resources to help them enhance, maintain and develop their 3-D design technology skills and remain competitive in the marketplace. The program offers free student software term licenses, free online training and a path to certification for unemployed architects, designers and engineers in all industries.

"Everyone has been touched by the economic downturn," said Steve Blum, senior vice president, America's Sales at Autodesk. "We have a tradition of supporting the needs of our customers and partners. The assistance program is a fast-tracked way for our customers to improve their productivity and competitiveness during this challenging and volatile time by accessing the multiple resources we offer them to best position themselves for the future."

Tools and resources will be made available through an online portal, where users can access:

• **Free Software License:** Any 13-month term student license of AutoCAD, Autodesk Revit Architecture, Autodesk Inventor Professional and/or AutoCAD Civil 3D software.

• **Free Online Training:** On-demand training available 24 hours a day, seven days a week provided online through vBooks—powered by Retrieve Technologies, Inc. (Internet access required)

• **Reduced-Cost Classroom Training:** Many Autodesk Authorized Training Center (ATC) and VAR partners are offering classroom training at their training facilities for free or for a significantly reduced fee. Participating partners are identified on the Autodesk Assistance Center program Web site.

• **Certification:** Certification preparation and exams are available at discounted rates through Autodesk Authorized Certification Centers.

In addition, the company has partnered with various industry organizations on local initiatives. For instance, the new Autodesk office in Waltham, Mass., is teaming with the local Boston Society of Architects to offer free volunteer-led seminars on building information modeling (BIM) to unemployed design professionals in the Boston area.

Seminar attendees receive a free Revit Architecture student term license and can also receive American Institute of Architects (AIA) continuing education credit for the seminars.

Autodesk currently provides training and online resources to end-users through Autodesk University Online (AU Online), Autodesk User Group International (AUGI), various online industry communities and the Autodesk YouTube Channel.

For more information, visit autodesk.com/assistanceprogram.