



Billie Jean King's GreenSlam Initiative launches GreenTernship Program to educate students with "green collar" job training

New York, NY (August 29, 2009) -- **Billie Jean King's GreenSlam Initiative** has launched a green collar internship program and has selected two New York-area students for the pilot **GreenSlam/GreenTernship** program.

Gary Brown, a senior at **Harlem Renaissance High School**, and Contessa Gayles, a senior at **Columbia University** have been selected as the program's inaugural GreenTerns. Both Brown and Gayles will receive an educational stipend and will be working with leading greening professionals in a program designed in conjunction with Green Spaces, a New York-Colorado based organization that provides green entrepreneurs with workspace, business services and networking channels, to manage and oversee project curriculum and the GreenTerns.

"Our mission is to involve youth, especially those in underserved communities, with green job training and the opportunity to gain hands-on experience in the eco-sports movement," Billie Jean King said. "Environmental justice is a natural extension of my work as a campaigner for equality."

Gayles will be studying with Mitchell Joachim, Ph.D., (cofounder of Terrefuge and Terreform 1, and a member of the Columbia University faculty) on a bid for the Olympics in the United States with a focus on sustainability. Brown will be assigned a GreenTernship with the Women's Education Project's *Team WEP*, an international athletic club whose mission is to raise awareness and funds for women's higher education and personal development, through creation of group runs and tours of urban farm communities in New York City. Gayles will also work directly with Brown as a student mentor.

According to Green Spaces' founder, Jennie Nevin, "We are pleased to help formulate Billie Jean King's vision and guide student GreenTerns throughout the academic year. As an organization, we are dedicated to educating and exposing youth to a variety of diverse environmentally and socially responsible practices, so this is a perfect fit."

The GreenSlam/GreenTernship program is made possible thanks to the generous support of **Green Spaces** (www.greenspaceshome.com), **MSI Computer Corporation** (<http://us.msi.com/WindTop>), the **United States Tennis Association** (USTA) the, **Billie Jean King World Team Tennis Charities** and the **Tennis Industry Association** (TIA). Said Vice President of Sales MSI, U.S. Andy Tung, "MSI is pleased to be a part of the green movement program and among the growing list of companies that are choosing to operate as green corporate citizens."

In 2007, on the first anniversary of the renaming of the national tennis center as the *USTA Billie Jean King National Tennis Center*, King, Ilana Kloss, Pam Derderian and Nancy Becker formed **GreenSlam** to help green the sports industry, educate fans and to support wider opportunity in the emerging green economy.

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About Green Spaces: Green Spaces is a New York and Colorado based leader in providing green entrepreneurs with workspace, business services, workshops, and a networking outreach for thousands of people living and working in New York. Green Spaces programs are designed to strengthen and connect emerging green businesses that are working with natural resources to create a new nature-based economy. Their management of the BJK GreenSlam/GreenTernship program is designed to help students gain an understanding of the diverse range of work opportunities and programs in the field of sustainability, while connecting emerging talent with Green Spaces' companies and providing NY based high school and college students with paid internships.

About MSI Computer Corporation: Established in 1986 and headquartered in Taipei Taiwan, MSI strives to design and manufacture superior technology and innovative products, while offering outstanding customer service. The MSI portfolio includes Notebook Computers, Mainboards, Graphics Cards, Desktop Computers and All-in-One PCs. MSI develops all its product lines with the goals of promoting and empowering the environmental protection movement. To learn more about MSI's complete offering please visit <http://us.msi.com>.