

John Litten
Youth & Learning Program Manager
Microsoft Corp.

John Litten joined Microsoft Corp. in December 1999 as the company's first program manager of Youth & Learning. Microsoft has long believed that education is the most important application of its technology, and the company has built a range of programs, products and initiatives that support the learning process in the classroom and beyond. The Youth & Learning initiative will integrate these programs under a single vision: that technology can provide young people with the tools to learn and discover in school, after school and at home. Paramount in this vision is the understanding that access to technology should span cultures and income levels, creating opportunity for young people in every community.

Litten's work brings him into daily contact with community members, educators at the local and national level, congressional members, and advocates for education, access and online safety. He is in a unique position to share what he learns with product managers, developers and senior management at Microsoft, enabling the company to evaluate and hone products and programs according to the needs of educators, parents and children.

Prior to joining Microsoft, Litten served as administrator for communications in the Clover Park School District, the 15th largest school district in Washington state. In this capacity he was responsible for all central and school-based computer systems, community relations activities, print shop, art service and data analysis. He was an integral member of the administrative team that implemented site-based management and the use of national models for schoolwide reform. The district has received state and national recognition for these efforts.

While at Clover Park, Litten oversaw the conversion of the district's computers from an antiquated Wang computer system to a new central computer system, networked through all district schools, to handle student records, financial services, human relations, payroll, food service, transportation, warehouse and maintenance operations. His goal was to enhance instruction through the integration of technology in the curriculum.

Litten began his career with the U.S. Air Force, where he spent 20 years in various positions, most recently as chief of Public Affairs for the McChord Air Force Base in Washington state.

Litten attended Indiana University and graduated magna cum laude with a master's in management from Webster University. He lives in Lacey, Wash., with his wife and has three grown children.

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