IT Careers Look Good for the Future Despite Economic Downturn

Although overall hiring is down in the business sector, the increasing reliance on IT departments will continue to provide opportunities for trained IT specialists.

Computer support specialists can complete a 2 year associate degree or certificate program for entry level positions. Typically database administrators, programmers and network engineers usually have a four year degree, but can replace experience and knowledge for education in order to be competitive in the IT job market.

The IT market is still hungry for qualified candidates and many employers are responding by increasing compensation levels to attract experienced candidates. Positions facing talent shortages will see even larger gains. The top positions are as follows:

**Lead applications developer**– base compensation is expected to increase by 7.6%, with a salary expectation between $80,250 to $108,000 annually. The demand for experienced and skilled developers who can coordinate and guide a team in design, development, coding, testing and debugging will continue to increase as the demand for new products rises.

**Messaging administrator**– starting salaries are forecasted to rise by 7.1%, with a base range between $55,000—$77,000. These IT specialists will be the communication management gurus who coordinate messaging systems, e-mail applications, hand held devices and networks ability to deliver seamless information efficiently and quickly.

**Data modeler**– base salaries are projecting an increase of 7%, with a base salary of $74,000—$102,000. Businesses will need IT people to manage their increasing databases, including the upgrade of their systems, organizing data and protecting the quality and access of databases.

**IT auditor**– senior IT auditors can expect a 6.9% raise in the salaries, with a base range from $86,000-$114,000. IT auditors assist companies to make sure they are efficient, secure and accurate according to federal regulations regarding information.

**Help desk**– Starting salaries are projected to increase by 5.8%, with base salaries ranging from $30,000—$57,000, depending on entry level or experienced support technicians. The demand for IT support increases as personnel needs to be trained and assisted with new software and hardware changes. The IT support personnel help solve daily issues and troubleshoot network problems.

Last but not least, soft skills will continue to be important for IT specialist to have. Specialist will be expected to possess excellent written and verbal communication skills, as well as the ability to lead and work within groups of diverse personalities and levels of technical understanding.