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Gates Foundation honors Mexican library service

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Comment SEATTLE (AP) - The Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation is giving its \$1 million "access to learning award" to an organization in Mexico's Veracruz state. The Vasconcelos (vass-con-seh-lohs) Program brings computers to remote villages to train people how to use computers and connect to the Internet. Mobile computer labs are moved from village to village on all-terrain vehicles. Microsoft Corp. is providing a software donation, and the foundation is providing the \$1 million award to the Vasconcelos Program. The program was created and managed by the Veracruz secretary of public education. It targets communities where computers are available in schools and community centers but the equipment is underused because residents lack computer skills.

The mobile computer lab and a training team spend up to two weeks in each village training people of all ages.

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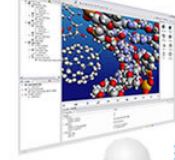
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