



Community Planning and Economic Development Department

News Release

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Minneapolis City Goals: A Safe Place to Call Home ▫ Jobs & Economic Vitality ▫ Eco-Focused ▫ Livable Communities, Healthy Lives ▫ Many People, One Minneapolis ▫ A City That Works

Google team trains STEP-UP interns, prepares youth for summer jobs

May 12, 2012 (MINNEAPOLIS) — A team from Google’s headquarters in Mountain View, California is offering a one-day entrepreneur training for 100 STEP-UP Achieve interns today. Participating youth will be employed this summer, through the City of Minneapolis STEP-UP program, as interns at various businesses throughout the city. The training is being held at Minneapolis Community and Technical College.

“Today’s training brings together two of the keys to Minneapolis’ future competitiveness: our talented young people who come every corner of the globe, and our rapidly expanding high-tech and entrepreneur sector, said **Mayor R.T. Rybak**. “I’m pleased to welcome this team of Googlers to Minneapolis. I know that our STEP-UP interns will learn a lot from the Google team, just as I know that they will impress them with their intelligence and creativity.”

“Our Google team is delighted to be in Minneapolis to engage young entrepreneurs and help them build long-term job skills,” said **Mary Himinkool, Head of Global Entrepreneurship Outreach for Google**. “We believe a spirit of entrepreneurship starts at a young age, and we can’t wait to hear the great ideas the STEP-UP interns will have.”

The Google team will offer a series of short lessons on Google products and platforms and share insights on how Google innovates. Volunteers from Minneapolis high-tech companies—Agosto, Inc., Nina Hale, SMCpros—will help facilitate a “pitch competition” where youth will work in teams to create a technology and business plan to solve a real-world problem. The pitches will be modeled after the type of presentations that start-ups need to make to draw investors. The challenges students will be addressing include: creating a plan to reduce traffic; increasing representation of the youth voice/perspective in government; increasing access to higher education in America; creating a launch

for a band and distribution plan for its music. The day will end with groups presenting their solutions and a vote by Google judges and the students on which proposals were the best.

“**Agosto** is proud to participate with Google, STEP-UP and AchieveMpls in training the next generation of entrepreneurs,” said **Aric Bandy**, CEO of the Minneapolis-based IT services and international cloud integration firm. “These talented young people are the bright future of our industry, and will significantly sharpen their job and tech skills through this great Google training.”

Since its creation in 2004, STEP-UP has created valuable workplace experiences for more than 14,000 Minneapolis youth (ages 14-21) and was [highlighted as a national model at a White House conference](#) in early January. STEP-UP Achieve, a component of the STEP-UP program jointly run by the City of Minneapolis and AchieveMpls, trains and places young people in employer-paid internships with top local companies, public agencies and nonprofit organizations.

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