



Community Planning and Economic Development Department

News Release

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20 Minneapolis Youth to Share What They Learned on the Job This Summer during Annual STEP-UP Worksite Tour

Featuring UCARE, North Community YMCA, Redeemer Center for Life and Hennepin County Library – Minneapolis Central Library

Monday, July 25, 2014 (Minneapolis, MN) On Tuesday, July 29, the City of Minneapolis STEP-UP program will be offering a guided tour of four of this year's 230 summer worksites to the program's partners and funders. City Council Members Cam Gordon, Blong Yang, Abdi Warsame, and Elizabeth Glidden will also join the tour along with representatives from Senator Franken's Office. The tour will feature over 20 of the 1,650 interns employed through the City's summer jobs program.

Tour stops include UCARE, North Community YMCA, Redeemer Center for Life, and Hennepin County Library-Minneapolis Central Library. Interns will share about their summer job experience by giving worksite tours, demonstrating work products including videos and skits, and by participating in moderated panel discussions. The youth, ages 14-21, will share what it has been like working with their supervisors and mentors, the skills they have gained, experiences they expected and did not expect, and the plans they have for the future.

"I am so excited to be here at UCare," says Walid Abubakar, UCare STEP-UP intern. "I've worked here for two consecutive summers and it has set me on the right path to success. My goal is to become a pharmacist, and UCare opened that door for me to approach that career. I have learned new job and leadership skills, and I am grateful for this opportunity."

The tour begins at 7:45 a.m. at UCARE located at 500 NE Stinson Parkway with breakfast and an award presentation. The bus will leave promptly at 8:30 a.m. for the North Community YMCA located at 1711 West Broadway Avenue where attendees will hear from a panel of STEP-UP interns about their job assisting with the summer enrichment program for kids. Following, the bus will head to Redeemer Center for Life at 1730 Glenwood Avenue at 9:45 a.m. to tour the coffee shop, full service bike store and gardens. STEP-UP interns will provide brief presentations including a skit and video outlining the work they have been doing over the summer.

At 10:45 a.m., the bus will arrive at the Hennepin County Library – Minneapolis Central Library located at 300 Nicollet Mall so tour attendees can meet STEP-UP Hennepin County interns and alumnus from various Hennepin County departments. The interns will share information about their work experience

through a moderated discussion by STEP-UP staff. A tour of the Minneapolis Central Library's teen area will be included if time permits. The tour will conclude with lunch at UCARE beginning at 11:45 a.m. During lunch, attendees will have the opportunity to meet UCARE interns and learn about their internship experience in healthcare administration.

"UCare is a Minneapolis-based organization that has enjoyed significant growth over the past several years. We support STEP-UP's work to build a talented and diverse workforce that will help organizations like ours continue to thrive in the future. This is our sixth year of providing high school students with engaging career development experiences and opportunities to help UCare employees reduce health care disparities and improve access to care," says Hilary Marden-Resnik, Senior Vice President of Administration and Chief Administrative Officer, UCare. Marden-Resnik recently joined the Achieve MPLS board.

Created in 2004, the City of Minneapolis STEP-UP program serves Minneapolis youth and young adults who face some of the greatest barriers to employment, including youth from lower economic backgrounds, minority youth, and youth with disabilities. In 2013, 92% of STEP-UP youth were minority, 50% were from the North Side of Minneapolis, and about 30% were recent immigrants. Since the program was launched, it has provided nearly 20,000 internship opportunities. STEP-UP interns explore diverse career interests, gain valuable on-the-job skills, make strong professional connections, and prepare for meaningful careers. They also receive work-readiness training that prepares them for their internship roles.

The City of Minneapolis STEP-UP program is a partnership with Achieve Minneapolis, Department of Employment and Economic Development (DEED), and Project for Pride in Living.

There will be photo and video opportunities at each of the tour sites. If you are interested in riding the tour bus please contact Rose Lindsay, CPED Communications Specialist by phone at 612.250.8661. The bus will be leaving promptly at 8:30 am.

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