

Community Planning and Economic Development

News Release

Contact: Rose Lindsay, 612.673.5015

City of Minneapolis STEP-UP Youth Employment Program Now Accepting Applications for 2016 Summer Internship Placements

Monday, December 7, 2015 (Minneapolis, MN) – The City of Minneapolis youth employment program STEP-UP began accepting applications for 2016 summer internship placements today. Eligible Minneapolis youth ages 14-21 who are interested in participating in the 2016 STEP-UP class have until February 5, 2016, to complete an application [online](#).

“The growth that our city is experiencing is no accident,” said Mayor Betsy Hodges. “It is the result of years of work that have created an environment good for business. Preparing the workforce of tomorrow by embracing our diversity and building future leaders is fundamental to sustaining that environment, and that is precisely what STEP-UP has been doing since 2004.”

STEP-UP is one of the country’s premiere youth employment programs, serving Minneapolis youth who face some of the greatest barriers to employment, including youth from disadvantaged economic backgrounds, youth of color, youth from recent immigrant families, and youth with disabilities. Since the program was launched, it has provided over 21,000 internship opportunities. In addition to summer jobs with more than 230 top Twin Cities companies, nonprofits and public agencies, STEP-UP also offers work readiness training, advanced-level internships and industry-specific career opportunities that help interns integrate their career exposure with post-secondary education and career planning.

“The opportunity STEP-UP gave to me was truly valuable,” said Jenny Llapa, a 2015 STEP-UP Achieve intern in the Hennepin County Attorney’s Office. “My internship and the people I had the pleasure of working with showed me that a teen my age could complete tasks that most people would never believe was possible. I am truly grateful for STEP-UP!”

Prior to being placed in their internships, youth receive work readiness training certified by the Minneapolis Regional Chamber of Commerce that prepares them for a professional work environment. Returning interns receive advanced training that helps them deepen their professional skills. Throughout their internship, they gain valuable on-the-job skills, make strong professional connections, and become exposed to careers they may have not otherwise accessed without STEP-UP.

“STEP-UP has been a great opportunity for HCMC to develop and create our workforce for tomorrow,” said Walt Chesley, Vice President, Chief Human Resources Officer, Hennepin County Medical Center (HCMC). “Many interns have expressed interest in the health care industry, and we know that we will truly benefit from their services in the future.”

In 2015, STEP-UP placed more than 1,600 Minneapolis youth in jobs with over 200 businesses, public agencies, and nonprofits. Youth represented in the 2015 class were 91% youth of color, 40% youth from recent immigrant families, and 12% youth with disabilities or other significant barriers to employment. 30% spoke fluently in a language in addition to English, representing 38 different languages from around the world.

Businesses, public agencies and nonprofits interested in employing interns in 2016 can find information on the [City of Minneapolis STEP-UP website](#).

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

To learn more about STEP-UP, or to access the online STEP-UP application, visit the [City of Minneapolis website](#).

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