



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

Mayor Celebrates with 1,350 Teens as their STEP-UP Summer Internships Wrap Up

More than 2,200 youth employed this summer through City of Minneapolis job training programs

August 11, 2010 (MINNEAPOLIS) –Mayor R.T. Rybak and 1,350 of the youth employed through the City’s STEP-UP program will celebrate the completion of their paid internships at 178 businesses and organizations throughout the city at an event this afternoon. The Mayor will also acknowledge the business community for their commitment to training the city’s future workforce. The event begins at 2:30pm at the Minneapolis Convention Center, 1301 2nd Ave So.

“In Minneapolis, we haven’t let the slow economy slow us down: we’re continuing to help people find jobs and make sure our young people grow up knowing that Minneapolis is a city where they can succeed. Because of STEP-UP, the young people graduating today are on the path to success: all summer long, they have been gaining work experience and life skills, building relationships with co-workers and mentors, and earning a paycheck,” said **Mayor R.T. Rybak**.

“A central component of [The Minneapolis Promise](#) is that if young people take responsibility for their education, we will help them find meaningful summer employment — and with STEP-UP, we’re delivering on that part of the promise. But we wouldn’t be able to do it without our great partner in the business community, whose commitment to training tomorrow’s workforce has been unwavering. Because of their commitment, we were able to grow STEP-UP this year, despite the current economic challenges,” said **Rybak**.”

The City's youth employment and training programs placed more than 2,200 Minneapolis youth in jobs this summer. From 2002 through 2010, the City placed approximately 14,000 youth, ages 14-21 in summer jobs; last year 2,300 youth were placed with 500 funded by federal stimulus money. Through 2009, 82% of STEP-UP participants were youth of color.

"With the ever-increasing diversity of our patients and members, the importance of having a workforce that reflects the communities we serve is vital. We know that it will lead to better health outcomes," said **Calvin U. Allen, Senior Vice President of Human Resources and Corporate Strategic Planning, HealthPartners.**

"The youth in the STEP-UP program represent our community. Not only do they bring racial, ethnic and cultural diversity to our work, but they bring with them the fresh perspectives only young people can provide. And hopefully the interns benefit from picking up some useful job skills from us. It's a mutually beneficial relationship and we're proud to be a part of it," **Allen added.**

Interns scheduled to speak about their STEP-UP experience are **Derrick Charleston**, who worked at the law firm, Nilan Johnson Lewis and **Alexis Harris**, who was employed by Kaleidoscope Place, a program devoted to children and families in the Phillips neighborhood.

HealthPartners and **Kaleidoscope Place** will receive awards for their commitment to hiring and training tomorrow's workforce.

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