

Community Planning and Economic Development News Release

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Annual STEP-UP Mock Interviews to Provide Job Interview Experience to Over 1,500 Minneapolis Youth

Over 400 Twin Cities business professionals and community volunteers will conduct one-on-one interviews and provide feedback to young people at Minneapolis Convention Center March 26-29

Monday, March 26, 2018 (Minneapolis) – Today through Thursday, March 26-29, over 1,500 Minneapolis youth and 400 Twin Cities business professionals and community volunteers will descend on the Minneapolis Convention Center for four nights for the 15th annual STEP-UP youth employment program mock interviews. These practice interviews match young people (age 14-21) who are preparing for summer internships at top Twin Cities companies, public agencies and nonprofits with experienced volunteers who are eager to share their skills and expertise with our region’s future workforce.

“Minneapolis is a young city—by 2020, a majority of our workforce will be millennials. Youth employment programs like STEP-UP help future leaders develop the skills and gain the experience they need to succeed in the workplace and keep our local economy strong for generations,” said Mayor Jacob Frey.

The mock interviews are scheduled from 4:45 - 6:15 p.m. each night at the Minneapolis Convention Center (Room 200, 1301 Second Avenue South). The 400-plus volunteers will include employees from over 130 Twin Cities businesses and organizations.

Prior to the interviews, each STEP-UP program applicant will have completed over 10 hours of work readiness training. The trainings, led by AchieveMpls and certified by the Minneapolis Regional Chamber of Commerce, focus on workplace conduct, professional communication, problem solving, interview skills, resume writing and other skills.

“Hosting a STEP-UP intern was a great experience,” said Julia Eagles, a STEP-UP supervisor at Xcel Energy. “It provided an opportunity for our staff to supervise and mentor young people, and introduced our whole team to the workforce of the future!”

The mock interviews allow STEP-UP interns to put their new skills to the test in what is for many their first professional job interview. The interviews last about 10 minutes, after which volunteers coach the interns and provide respectful, candid feedback to help them strengthen their skills and confidence.

“I benefited from participating in the STEP-UP program in many ways,” said Samuel, a STEP-UP intern at TCF National Bank. “I learned how to interview and be in a corporate setting, and how to properly dress and have a schedule for when to arrive at work and when to complete work. I also gained the experience I needed to find another job in a field I’m interested in.”

About STEP-UP

STEP-UP prepares Minneapolis youth for tomorrow’s careers. As one of the country’s leading youth employment programs, STEP-UP recruits, trains and places more than 1,600 young people (ages 14-21) in paid internships at more than 200 employers each year. With a collective of partners spanning 15 industries and multiple sectors, STEP-UP is the largest and most enduring program of its kind in our region. It’s a backbone of support that unites businesses, schools, nonprofits and the city together in a common goal: to build and strengthen our future economy and the talented youth who will power it. STEP-UP is a partnership of the City of Minneapolis, AchieveMpls, Minnesota Department of Employment and Economic Development (DEED) and Project for Pride in Living.

Learn more about STEP-UP by visiting the program’s [website](#) or follow STEP-UP activities and events all year long via @STEPUPMpls on Facebook, Instagram, SnapChat or with hashtag #STEPUPMpls.

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