



**PRESS RELEASE**

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE  
Monday, December 8, 2014**

**DEPARTMENT OF SMALL BUSINESS SERVICES ANNOUNCES  
LAUNCH OF NYC WEB DEVELOPMENT FELLOWSHIP OFFERING  
TECH TRAINING, INTERNSHIPS AND JOBS TO 18- TO 26-YEAR-OLDS**

*BuzzFeed, Microsoft, AppNexus, The New York Times, and Kickstarter Providing 12-Week Internships  
For First Time Ever, Fellowship Exclusively Serving 18- to 26-Year-Olds Without A College Degree*

**New York** - The New York City Department of Small Business Services and the NYC Tech Talent Pipeline, in partnership with the Flatiron School and Youth Development Institute (YDI), today announced the launch of a new model of the successful NYC Web Development Fellowship. For the first time, the program will exclusively serve 18- to 26-year-olds without a college degree. Since its launch in 2013, the program has provided intensive training free of charge to 56 participants, with 96 percent of participants from the first cohort now in jobs with companies like Intel, Etsy, and Venmo at an average salary of \$70,000. As part of the City's Tech Talent Pipeline initiative, the new Web Development Fellowship will begin in January 2015 and include a five-month on-campus training, a 12-week paid internship in companies like BuzzFeed and Microsoft, and placement in technology jobs paying \$65,000 or more. The deadline for applications is December 31.

"It's critical that we provide young New Yorkers with the tools and resources they need to build real careers in growing sectors with good wages and the Web Development Fellowship is a proven program that achieves just that," said Maria Torres-Springer, Commissioner of the NYC Department of Small Business Services. "Through the Tech Talent Pipeline, we are delivering on the Mayor's charge to help transform the City's approach to workforce development by launching an innovative new model of the Web Development Fellowship and providing 18-26-year-old youth with the training and hands-on experience in top companies they need to succeed."

"As a tech company born here in New York and now employing over 550 people at our home in Flatiron, AppNexus has a strong commitment to developing homegrown talent," said AppNexus Founder and CEO Brian O'Kelley. "We look forward to welcoming our NYC Web Development Fellows to the team this summer."

"The NYC Web Development Fellowship through the Flatiron School gave me an opportunity when I felt opportunities were dwindling down. I'm doing things now, with confidence, that I couldn't have imagined myself doing a year ago," said Jonathan Brown, a participant in the inaugural class of the NYC Web Development Fellowship and currently a software engineer at Sellect Commerce.

Following the Mayor's *Career Pathways* report released last month, the Tech Talent Pipeline has partnered with youth services specialists at YDI and tech industry experts at the Flatiron School to

develop a new model for web development training targeting 18- to 26-year-olds without a college degree. The new program pairs intensive training with enhanced career coaching, mentorship, and transitional support. Companies like BuzzFeed, Microsoft, AppNexus, The New York Times, and Kickstarter have already signed on to join the effort and will offer participants on-the-job experience in 12-week summer internships.

Today, the unemployment rate for youth in NYC has reached 20%, up from 13% in 2000. At the same time, the technology industry has emerged as among the highest paying and fastest growing sectors in New York City, representing 291,000 jobs and \$30 billion in wages annually. Yet companies are struggling to fill open positions. As a result, the Mayor's *Career Pathways* report released last month by the Jobs for New Yorkers Task Force identified the technology sector as an area of high growth and high potential. In order to train and place a more diverse workforce in available tech jobs, Industry Partnerships like the Tech Talent Pipeline will bring together businesses, community groups, training providers, and government to recruit, train, and connect unemployed and under-employed adults to living wage tech jobs. More information on the Career Pathways report can be found at <http://www1.nyc.gov/site/careerpathways/index.page>.

Eligible applicants for the NYC Web Development Fellowship must be between 18 and 26 years of age, live in New York City, have not completed a college degree, earn less than \$50,000 a year or be currently unemployed, have never worked as a web developer, and meet federal selective service requirements. Applications are due on December 31 with the program beginning in January. For more information or to apply, go to <http://flatironschool.com/nycworkforce1> or call 311.

### **About the Tech Talent Pipeline**

The Tech Talent Pipeline is a collaboration between businesses, community organizations, government, academic institutions and training providers designed to support the growth of New York's tech sector and prepare New Yorkers for 21<sup>st</sup> century jobs. Announced by the Mayor in May 2014, the \$10 million, 3-year initiative provides leadership, funding and support to public and private partners working to deliver technology education, training, and job opportunities to underserved New Yorkers. The Tech Talent Pipeline is supported by several philanthropic partners, including JP Morgan Chase, the inaugural funder, and the NY Community Trust and the NYC Workforce Funders.

### **About the Department of Small Business Services**

The Department of Small Business Services (SBS) makes it easier for businesses in New York City to start, operate and expand by providing direct assistance to business owners, fostering neighborhood development in commercial districts, and linking employers to a skilled and qualified workforce. For more information on all of SBS' services, go to [www.nyc.gov/sbs](http://www.nyc.gov/sbs).

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