



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

1,850 teens complete summer internships through the City of Minneapolis STEP-UP program

*Mayor joins youth in public celebration and thanks businesses
for training tomorrow's workforce*

August 16, 2012 (MINNEAPOLIS) –Minneapolis Mayor R.T. Rybak celebrated the wrap-up of the City's STEP-UP summer jobs program today with interns and their employers, including many of the city's top corporations and nonprofits. The Mayor thanked the 230 businesses and organizations that employed 1,850 youth this summer and presented special awards to STEP-UP employers Wells Fargo and Project for Pride in Living.

At a lively public event attended by interns, employers and other members of the community, Wells Fargo and Project for Pride and Living were honored for their outstanding commitment to Minneapolis youth, for offering internships of outstanding quality, and for helping interns connect with individuals and resources that help advance their professional and educational goals.

"Today we recognize the bright, talented youth that earned not only a paycheck this summer through STEP-UP but also work experience that will help guide them as they make career decisions ahead," said **Mayor Rybak**. "We also recognize the commitment from the business community to mentor these kids, with special tribute to Wells Fargo for more than doubling the number of interns employed this summer, and to Project for Pride in Living for their work to prepare kids, so they are trained before they ever step in the door."

"The interns are bright, eager to learn and really grow through the opportunity to participate in this program," said **John Rasmussen**, executive vice president for Wells Fargo Home Mortgage. "The STEP-UP internship program clearly supports and cultivates their dreams of having a successful future."

Awards were also given to six select interns and three company supervisors who were nominated for their outstanding performances and contributions during the 2012 STEP-UP program. The interns and supervisors represented STEP-UP employers Boston Scientific, Minneapolis Public Housing Authority, Universal Hospital Services, North High School Community Education, WomenVenture, Minnesota Twins, Kaleidoscope Place, and Mortenson Construction.

Speakers included **Mayor Rybak**; STEP-UP Chair **Richard Davis**, U.S. Bancorp Chairman, President and Chief Executive Officer; and **Andrew Furco**, Associate Vice President for the Office of Public Engagement at the University of Minnesota. Three STEP-UP interns also shared stories from their summer internships, including **Jordan McKinney**, and **Claire Weers**, who were employed by MIGIZI Communications; and **Brianna Gay**, who was employed at William Mitchell College of Law.

Through a public-private partnership with local businesses and organizations, the STEP-UP program significantly benefits low-income youth and youth of color by helping them gain valuable work-readiness skills and long-term professional skills, and connecting them with business and community leaders. The STEP-UP program—which is managed in collaboration with AchieveMpls—has created valuable workplace experiences for nearly 18,000 Minneapolis youth, ages 14-21, since 2002 and was recognized as an outstanding model for youth employment and public-private partnerships at a White House conference in 2012.

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