

## Community Planning and Economic Development Media Advisory

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For Immediate Release

### **STEP-UP End of Summer Event Celebrates Professional Skills and Workforce Experience Gained by 1,600 Minneapolis Youth Aged 14-21 Thursday, August 17 at the Guthrie Theatre**

**WHAT:** On Thursday, August 17, 2017, the STEP-UP youth employment program will celebrate over 1,600 youth ages 14 to 21 having completed successful summer work experiences. The event also serves as a special thank you to the supervisors, mentors and 213 Twin Cities' nonprofits, government agencies, small businesses, and corporations that hosted interns this summer.

Taking place from 2:30-4:00 p.m. at the Guthrie Theatre, the celebration includes a video welcome by Mayor Betsy Hodges, awards given by STEP-UP founders and co-chairs R.T. Rybak and Richard Davis and City of Minneapolis department of Community Planning and Economic Development Interim Director David Frank. Event emcee STEP-UP alumnus Ashley Yang and current interns Destiny Rollie and Badrudin Aden will each share how the program has impacted their lives.

Entertainment will be provided by the Minneapolis Park and Recreation Board (MPRB) Park Pathways Program Freedom School and Asian Media Access dance group. Each group features STEP-UP interns.

Created in 2004, STEP-UP is the City of Minneapolis internship program for young adults ages 14-21. Each year, STEP-UP recruits, trains and places more than 1,600 Minneapolis youth in meaningful paid internships with over 200 top Twin Cities businesses, public agencies and nonprofits, building a stronger future workforce for our knowledge-based regional economy. As one of the country's premiere youth employment programs, STEP-UP serves youth who face some of

the greatest barriers to employment, particularly youth from low income families, youth of color, youth from immigrant families, and youth with disabilities. The City of Minneapolis STEP-UP is a program in partnership with AchieveMpls, Department of Employment and Economic Development (DEED) and Project for Pride in Living.

Follow the STEP-UP celebration live on Twitter @STEPUPMpls or with hashtag #STEPUPMpls.

**WHEN:** Thursday, August 17, 2017  
2:30-4:00 p.m.

**PROGRAM**

- Performance by MPRB Park Pathways Program Freedom School
- 2017 STEP-UP Employer of the Year Awards
- Program emcee: STEP-UP Alumnus, Ashley Yang
- Intern reflections from Destiny Rollie, STEP-UP Discover Intern and Badrudin Aden, STEP-UP Achieve Intern
- 2017 STEP-UP Intern Awards and Supervisor Awards presented by R.T. Rybak, STEP-UP Founder and Co-Chair/CEO and President of The Minneapolis Foundation and Richard Davis, Board Chair, U.S. Bank
- Performance by Asian Media Access

**WHERE:** Guthrie Theatre  
Wurtele Thrust Stage  
818 South 2<sup>nd</sup> Street  
Minneapolis, MN 55415

**MORE:** Since 2004, STEP-UP has provided more than 24,000 internship opportunities to Minneapolis youth ages 14-21. STEP-UP interns explore diverse career interests, gain valuable on-the-job skills, make strong professional connections, and prepare for meaningful careers. Before being placed into their internship, STEP-UP participants receive extensive work-readiness training and complete a mock-interview that prepares them for their experience.

The City of Minneapolis STEP-UP program is a partnership with AchieveMpls. Other major partners include Department of Employment and Economic Development (DEED) and Project for Pride in Living. Learn more about STEP-UP at the City of Minneapolis [website](#) or follow STEP-UP on Facebook, Twitter, Instagram, SnapChat, LinkedIn, or by using hashtag #STEPUPMpls.

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