



July 20, 2022

IMMEDIATE RELEASE:

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On Ramps to Careers Kicks Off 10th Year of Internships with 300 Minority STEM Students and 36 Tech Employers

*Continuing to Make Meaningful Impact and Address Racial Inequities Through
Technology Internships for DC Youth*

WASHINGTON, DC, July 20, 2022 — This month more than 300 Washington D.C. area minority students began a summer of paid technology and engineering skills-based internships through a local non-profit, *On-Ramps to Careers*. Working with thirty-five employer partners ranging from Accenture, Comcast and the DC Department of Public Works to Palo Alto Networks, Pepco and the US Department of Homeland Security, students are designing mobile applications, building websites, protecting cyber networks, creating communications content and prototyping new tech solutions among their many real-world projects.

In partnership with D.C. public and public charter schools, the Department of Employment Services and the Office of the State Superintendent of Schools, On-Ramps and its partners are making a significant economic impact for DC residents. Approximately 89% of On-Ramps alumni go to college compared to 39% for District students as a whole. With an average difference of \$765,000 in lifetime earnings between college and non-college graduates, that translates to about \$30 Million in economic impact from the 800 On-Ramps alumni. That impact is likely understated because 78% of On-Ramps alumni pursue STEM degrees (which generate even higher lifetime earnings) compared to 18% of students pursuing STEM degrees nationwide. Over 95% of On-Ramps alumni identify as a person of color and a majority are female, so it is also helping to change the human capital landscape and culture of the region's technology workforce.

Since its founding in Washington, D.C. 10 years ago, On Ramps has created meaningful career pathways for the city's talented, but most vulnerable youth by engaging private and public sector employers with under-represented students who are pursuing technology or engineering courses in DC schools.

On Ramps to Careers alumni Steve Henry, a former Phelps Architecture, Construction and Engineering High School student who interned with UNCF (United Negro College Fund) and Accenture during high school and college, just secured a full-time position as a Security Analyst at Accenture. "I am so very grateful to On Ramps to Careers. Throughout high school, I was fortunate to intern at 3 amazing companies. This experience helped me to decide what aspect of IT I was most interested in and wanted to study in college. Upon graduation, Accenture offered me a full-time position as a Cyber Security Analyst. I know that, without On Ramps, none of this would have been possible. I am now excited about my future," said Steve Henry.

"Students like Steve -- and the nearly 1,000 other alumni who our employers have helped us empower since 2013 -- make every long day worth the work. In the process of making a better future for themselves, these students and employers are also creating a better world for all of us," said On-Ramps Founder, Robert Holm.

On Ramps connects students in minority and underserved communities to career paths in technology and engineering by introducing them to professionals in these fields and providing internships that inspire them to hone their STEM skills, offering STEM work-based learning, career training and placement. They do this by forming crucial partnerships with employers, schools and the community.

"We know that under-representation for girls and Black and Brown students exist in the technology field and we remain committed to making an impact," said On Ramps to Careers Board Chair Monique LeNoir. "Last year we were able to place a total of 215 interns, with 32 employers, from 20 high schools and our impact keeps growing each year." More details around On Ramps impact can be found [here](#).

On-Ramps will be hosting its 10th Year Anniversary STEM Internship Celebration at Samsung in Washington DC on October 6th, 2022 at 6pm. Companies and individuals can see award-winning intern presentations and hear from federal technology leaders Dovarius Peoples, Chief Information Officer (CIO) at US Army Corps of Engineers, at the event. [Click here](#) for more information about how you can make a difference and sponsor this event: <https://www.onrampstocareers.org/2022interncelebration>

On Ramps to Careers is preparing the next generation to become competitive and successful in today's STEM workforce. Visit www.onrampstocareers.org to learn more.

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About On-Ramps to Careers

On-Ramps to Careers is a non-profit partnership that makes technology and engineering careers more attainable to underserved youth in the Nation's Capital. We are an alliance of business, education, government and community leaders who share the common goal of empowering all youth to contribute and prosper in the STEM economy. We provide employers with a reliable infrastructure to inspire students and shape a more diverse regional technology workforce. *For more information, visit our website www.onrampstocareers.org, or follow us on [Twitter](#), [Facebook](#), [LinkedIn](#) or [Instagram](#).*