



NEWS RELEASE

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

September 25, 2023

Minority Youth Engagement in STEM Economy

Contributing to National Capital's Economy in Positive Ways

On-Ramps to Careers Empowers 300 DC Youth Through STEM Internships, Advancing Racial Equity in Technology

WASHINGTON, DC, September 25, 2023 — On-Ramps to Careers (On-Ramps), a pioneering non-profit organization that engages tech employers with schools, is marking its 11th year of transforming the lives of Washington D.C. youth through STEM internships that help address racial inequities in the technology sector. This summer, On-Ramps to Careers achieved a milestone by providing over 300 STEM internships, more than doubling pre-COVID numbers. Since its inception in 2013, On-Ramps has offered 1,300 paid internships that equipped minority students in the Washington D.C. area with valuable technology and engineering skills, greatly improving entrance into college and STEM degree programs.

Partnering with 40 technology employers, including Accenture, Comcast, the DC Department of Public Works, Microsoft, Palo Alto Networks, Pepco, and the US Department of Homeland Security, students engaged in real-world projects such as designing mobile applications, developing websites, supporting cybersecurity, creating marketing content, and tech innovation.

This summer, Samsung, GoX Labs and other DC based companies hosted 25 On Ramp's high school interns and 5 college interns to research and provide marketing recommendations for the GoX Labs Boost Worker Safety solution and the City of Washington DC. "the interns developed amazingly creative and useful ideas for GoX to solve real world problems for Postal Workers, Athletes, Baggage Handlers and Health Care as well as improvement ideas for Washington DC. The ideas were such an asset that Dobbs Defense Solutions hired one of interns who is attending UMD this fall." Said Barbara Hoffman, a Samsung Vice President.

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For the past 11 years On-Ramps has helped open life-altering career pathways for the Washington, D.C. area's talented yet vulnerable youth. By connecting underrepresented students in high school technology and engineering courses with private and public sector employers, the organization introduces them to industry professionals, provides inspirational STEM internships, career training, and placement opportunities. On-Ramps' does this by creating vital partnerships with employers, public and public charter schools, the DC Department of Employment Services, and the DC Office of the State Superintendent of Education.

On-Ramps and its partners are making a substantial economic impact in the nation's capital. Remarkably, 89% of On-Ramps alumni pursue higher education compared to the 39% District-wide average. College completion leads to an average lifetime earnings difference of \$765,000 per student when compared to non-college graduates. The 50 percentage point positive difference the On-Ramps makes in college attendance translates to approximately \$420 million in lifetime economic impact from the 1,100 On-Ramps alumni. Additionally, 78% of On-Ramps alumni pursue STEM degrees, contributing to higher lifetime earnings, in contrast to the 18% national average for all students pursuing STEM degrees – and only 12% for students of color. With over 95% of On-Ramps alumni identifying as people of color and a majority being female, the organization is actively reshaping the region's technology workforce and its culture.

On-Ramps will host its Annual STEM Internship Celebration at Samsung in Washington D.C. on October 19, 2022, at 5:30 pm to celebrate this summer's interns, their employers and school partners. The event will feature award-winning intern presentations and insights and remarks from our successful alumni and speakers including Washington, DC City Administrator, Kevin Donohue and Maryland Blacks in Technology President, Alicia Brown.

On-Ramps to Careers is dedicated to preparing the next generation for success in today's STEM workforce. For information on sponsorship opportunities, please visit <https://www.onrampstocareers.org/2023interncelebration> or email Hilary Jones at hjones@onrampstocareers.org. To learn more about On-Ramps' impactful initiatives, please visit www.onrampstocareers.org.

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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 region. 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. Since 2013, we have supported 1,300 career-launching opportunities for underrepresented Washington DC STEM students - growing a more diverse, inclusive and prosperous talent pipeline for regional economic development and of over 1,000 talented African American, Latinx and female future leaders.

On-Ramps to Careers program results:

- 89% of On-Ramps' program alumni graduate from high school and go to college - compared to 39% for the District of Columbia as a whole
- 76% of On-Ramps' alumni are pursuing STEM degrees - compared to 18% nationwide
- Over 98% of On-Ramps' interns identify as people of color; a majority are female; a vast majority come from low-income wards of DC
- In 2023, 36 employers are hosting over 330 youth to help start students on technology and engineering career paths

MEDIA CONTACTS:

Stephanie Heishman, Freya on behalf of On-Ramps to Careers

Phone: (202) 738-9221 | Email: stephanie@freyallc.com

Emily Tara Weberman, Tara Marketing on behalf of On-Ramps to Careers

Phone: (202) 316-0970 | Email: emily@taramarketing.com

SPONSORSHIP CONTACT:

Hilary Jones, Managing Director, On-Ramps to Careers

Phone: (617) 620-5554 | Email: hjones@onrampstocareers.org