

## Community Planning and Economic Development Media Advisory

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For Immediate Release

### City of Minneapolis STEP-UP Youth Employment Program to Celebrate Completion of 1,700 Internships

Minneapolis Mayor Betsy Hodges, STEP-UP Co-Chairs R.T. Rybak and Richard Davis to join  
STEP-UP youth and employers Thursday, August 18 at Guthrie Theater

**WHAT:** On Thursday, August 18, 2016, the City of Minneapolis STEP-UP youth employment program will celebrate the success of nearly 1,700 youth ages 14 to 21 who worked at 230 top Twin Cities' nonprofits, government agencies, small businesses, and corporations this summer. The celebration will take place from 2:30-4:00pm at the Guthrie Theatre.

The celebration will include performances by IntermediaArts and the Patrick Henry High School Step Team. Comments and awards will be presented by Minneapolis Mayor Betsy Hodges and STEP-UP Co-Chairs R.T. Rybak and Richard Davis.

In 2016, 89% of STEP-UP youth were youth of color and 36% were youth from immigrant families.

Follow the STEP-UP celebration live on Twitter with hashtag #STEPUPMPLS  
[@Growingmpls](https://twitter.com/Growingmpls).

**WHEN:** Thursday, August 18, 2016  
2:30-4:00 p.m.

## **PROGRAM**

- Performance by IntermediaArts Group
- 2016 STEP-UP Employer of the Year Awards presented by Minneapolis Mayor Betsy Hodges
- Emcee for the evening is Step-Up Alum, Aajaze Davis
- Intern Reflections from Vernon Gates, STEP-UP Discover and Brianna Skildum, STEP-UP Achieve
- 2016 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, Chairman and CEO, U.S. Bank
- STEP Performance by Patrick Henry High Elite Step Team

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

**MORE:** Created in 2004, STEP-UP serves Minneapolis youth and young adults who face some of the greatest barriers to employment, including youth from families of lower economic backgrounds, youth of color, and youth with disabilities. Since the program was launched, it has provided nearly 21,000 internship opportunities. 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, most STEP-UP participants receive between 7-14 hours of 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), Minneapolis Park and Recreation Board, and Project for Pride in Living. Learn more about STEP-UP at the [City of Minneapolis website](#).

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