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Contact:  
Michelle Young, PIO ([michelle.young@sanjoseca.gov](mailto:michelle.young@sanjoseca.gov))  
Office of Mayor Sam Liccardo

## **White House Names San José A TechHire City**

*SAN JOSE* – The White House announced today that San José has been named a TechHire City, joining nine more cities nationwide that have committed to creating pathways to better, well-paying tech jobs and meeting urgent employer demand. There are now 31 TechHire Cities nationally.

“As a TechHire City, we are broadening prosperity by addressing the skills gap that has widened the gulf between economic opportunity and the inability of too many in our community to benefit from it,” said Mayor Sam Liccardo. “SJ TechHire focuses on providing our youth the skills they need to be successful in today’s job market, and expanding and diversifying the pool of skilled talent that Silicon Valley businesses need.”

The San José TechHire initiative targets young adults and long-term underemployed individuals, in partnership with work2future, YearUp, #YesWeCode, Santa Clara County Opportunity Youth Partnership and Foothill College. It will launch a new fast-track training program for up to 1,000 tech-enabled middle-skills jobs through the end of 2016. The types of jobs include user-interface design, coding, web development, and network administration in information communication technology, manufacturing and healthcare industries.

San José has already secured \$1.2 million from local and state sources to drive these strategies forward with a focus on women, minorities and youth. Later this year, the U.S. Department of Labor will make available \$100 million in grants that TechHire Cities can apply for, including San José to fund SJ TechHire.

Peter Ortiz is a 2014 graduate of Year Up, a San Jose TechHire training partner. “If I hadn’t participated in Year Up, I would either be in jail or dead,” said Ortiz, who overcame gang violence and worked as a janitor for minimum wage to support his family. Year Up’s intensive tech training program prepared him for an internship at eBay as an Information Security Analyst and today he is employed by PayPal as a User Experience Designer.

Cisco, Facebook, Jabil Circuit, Kaiser Permanente, Lawrence Livermore National Laboratory, LinkedIn, Symantec, SYNEX Corporation and Technology Credit Union are among Silicon Valley employers who, along with eBay and PayPal, have committed their support to SJ TechHire. The San Jose Silicon Valley Chamber of Commerce, Santa Clara County Office of Education and The Tech Museum of Innovation have also committed their support to bridge the skills gap.

“eBay is excited to partner with Mayor Liccardo, YearUp and our colleagues in the industry on the SJ TechHire Initiative,” said Donna Zontos, Vice President of Human Resources North America, eBay. “We’re strongly committed to workforce diversity and recognizes the need to develop broad talent pathways into tech-enabled careers in Silicon Valley.”

San Jose's workforce development agency —work2future— will lead the initiative. “This program will take our existing partnerships with local community colleges, other training partners, and Silicon Valley employers to the next level,” said Jeff Ruster, work2future director. “We will connect our local residents with employment opportunities at the cutting edge of innovation that are in high demand today and tomorrow.”

“The U.S. Department of Labor projects a shortage of one-million trained tech workers by 2020,” said Michael Nobleza, National Director for #YesWeCode. “The SJ TechHire Initiative will enable forward-leaning leaders and communities, like San José, to meet this demand by training more job-ready young adults. There are people who need jobs right now, and #YesWeCode is excited to work with San José to help create alternative pathways to tech jobs for them.”

President Obama today is hosting [White House Demo Day](#), an event focused on inclusive entrepreneurship, in conjunction with the announcement of the new TechHire Cities, including San José. This event will be webcast live beginning at 12:40 pm (PST), with President Obama expected to speak at 1 pm (PST): [www.whitehouse.gov/live](http://www.whitehouse.gov/live).