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Technology Rediscovery LLC
2209 S Braddock Ave
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December 7, 2018

Dr. Quintin B. Bullock
President – Community College of Allegheny County
808 Ridge Avenue, Byers Hall: Suite 109
Pittsburgh, PA 15212

RE: CCAC PAsmart Growing Registered Apprenticeship Programs Grant Application

Dear Dr. Bullock

Technology Rediscovery LLC is pleased to provide this letter of commitment supporting the Community College of Allegheny County (CCAC) PAsmart Growing Registered Apprenticeship v Programs Grant Application. It is our understanding the goal of CCAC’s PAsmart Growing Registered Apprenticeship Programs Grant will be to enhance and expand the registered apprenticeship system in Western Pennsylvania by leveraging CCAC’s current coursework and developing additional curriculum models. One of these models will provide the related technical instruction that complements on-the-job training to appropriately serve student-apprentices in Data Analytics. Accompanying this vision, is the long term objective of adding additional industry sectors as registered apprenticeship programs take root within the college infrastructure.

Company purpose and origins

Technology Rediscovery LLC develops web-accessible database software for managing residential occupancy permitting and municipal code enforcement casework. The software system, now called CodeConnect, was created in 2016 as a culminating project undertaken by company CEO Eric Darsow and fellow masters students at Carnegie Mellon University’s Heinz College. Continued development of the code base since December 2016 was funded by publicly administered grants managed by the Turtle Creek Valley Council of Governments.

Open source licensing promotes apprentices’ freedom

Bob Gradeck, director of the University of Pittsburgh’s Western Pennsylvania’s Regional Data Center (WPRDC), advised the system’s initial design. His organization’s commitment to open public data inspired Technology Rediscovery LLC to release our entire code base under the GNU Public License.

This licensing strategy inverts intellectual property legal structures traditionally used to extract license fees and restrict code sharing across developers and organizations.

In contrast, our public license creates cycles of reciprocity. The code apprentices write while learning data management and analysis improves the functionality of CodeConnect, directly benefiting our government clients. Since our licenses allows all users—including the apprentices themselves—to freely copy, modify, and distribute CodeConnect’s components for any other project, an incentive emerges for users to further develop the system and share the improvements with everybody.

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Track record of ongoing student mentorship

Using CCAC’s existing cooperative learning program (i.e. co-ops) and the traditional internship model, Technology Rediscovery LLC has already mentored eager CCAC students in learning the basics of full-stack web development. The three participating students have already created useful CodeConnect components including a mobile-responsive public services access page and a python-based utility for optimizing code officer daily driving routes.

Preliminary beta testing began in mid-2018 with solid success. Approximately a dozen client municipalities served by the Turtle Creek Valley Council of Governments or the Steel Rivers Council of Governments will start testing our first full beta release in January 2019.

Commitments

In support of CCAC’s college-wide registered apprenticeship initiative Technology Rediscovery LLC commits to:

- Collaborate with CCAC faculty in the development of curriculum that reflects current industry standards for information technology instruction
- Support CCAC Data Analytics Registered Apprenticeship by providing employment sites for on-the-job-training inclusive of a structured, supervised work experience for student-apprentices to proficiently develop information technology industry skills
- Share best practices in information technology work based learning

Technology Rediscovery LLC looks forward to ongoing collaboration with CCAC on the PAsmart Growing Registered Apprenticeship Programs Grant. Technology Rediscovery LLC fully supports “earn and learn” education and training opportunities for student-apprentices and the significant contribution these initiatives will have on regional growth in the information technology industry.

Sincerely,



Eric C Darsow
Founder and CEO
Technology Rediscovery LLC

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