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Technology Rediscovery LLC
2209 S Braddock Ave
Pittsburgh, PA 15218
412.894.3020

3 February, 2019

To: Susie Puskar
Partner4Work, Director of Youth Innovation
650 Smithfield Street
Pittsburgh, PA 15219

RE: Technology Rediscovery LLC and Youth Enrichment Services (YES) workforce training partnership

Dear Ms. Puskar:

Technology Rediscovery LLC is pleased to provide this letter of commitment supporting Youth Enrichment Services' application for participation in the Partner4Work young adult workforce training program from July 2019 through June 2020. This letter describes the organization's purpose, details our past connections to Youth Enrichment Services, and expresses commitments for future collaboration.

Company purpose and origins

Technology Rediscovery LLC pools the efforts of technology-focused students to provides affordable database and workflow management solutions to small-scale government clients in Allegheny county. All of the software we write is open source, allowing our contractors freedom to develop their own clientele and service suite as their skills evolve.

Our core product is web-accessible database software for managing residential occupancy permitting and municipal code enforcement casework. The software system's essential characteristics were designed in 2016 through 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.

Past work with Youth Enrichment Services since March, 2017

Company founder Eric Darsow has been developing components of Technology Rediscovery LLC's youth tech training model for the past two years in conjunction with Youth Enrichment Services' Learn & Earn summer community-focused research projects. Highlights of this collaboration include:

- Developed a peer-teaching model for using digital mapping tools to investigate lead (Pb) exposure dangers in the Lincoln-Lemington neighborhood of Pittsburgh during the summer of 2017. Mr. Darsow mentored a subset of six students over two months to design and implement a data gathering system related to the age of housing and playground infrastructure in Lincoln-Lemington. The workshop models used for teaching community research are almost completely transferable to workplace settings.
- Compiled a 60+ page report documenting and evaluating the peer-teaching strategies developed in 2017 to address skill gaps related to students hailing from high school with under-resourced STEM programs.
- Mentored a cohort of five students investigating patterns in tobacco advertising across Pittsburgh neighborhoods of varying socioeconomic contexts during the summer of 2018. The peer-teaching model developed the prior year was improved and the rudiments of a media-infused, tech-focused advocacy model was birthed.

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Connections to the Community College of Allegheny County

Technology Rediscovery LLC founder and CEO Eric Darsow also holds a full-time position on Computer Information Technology (CIT) department faculty at the Community College of Allegheny County. Since March of 2018, Technology Rediscovery LLC has been contracting with six CCAC students studying software development and multimedia design to contribute to the municipal database application project.

Under our *funded learning* arrangement, contracting students are paid \$20/hr to both develop useful modules for the municipal software system and dedicate a share of their time to learning the fundamentals of the technology components they use. Technology Rediscovery LLC is both creating client value while supporting student learning at a depth and rate uncommon in a more output-focused work environment.

PASmart grant application submitted in January 2019

Additionally, Technology Rediscovery LLC, Instructor Eric Darsow, and CCAC jointly prepared a PASmart grant application in January 2019 to develop an apprenticeship program in Data Analytics. If awarded, Technology Rediscovery LLC would deepen its connections to Youth Enrichment Services to develop compelling training experiences related to data analytics and the modern knowledge economy.

Commitment to ongoing collaboration with Youth Enrichment Services

In support of Technology Rediscovery LLC's goal of serving small-scale government client by connecting them to the services of technology students in Allegheny County, we commit to the following:

- Collaborating directly with YES staff in delivering technology support, data analytics, and software development training opportunities for up to six youth on a part-time basis for a year beginning in the summer of 2019
- Participating youth from YES will be mentored by CEO Eric Darsow and members of the CCAC student contractor pool currently actively developing municipal services software and supporting its roll out to clients in the Turtle Creek Valley area.
- Based on student interest and ability, workforce trainees will develop skills along one of four tracks:
 - IT system support and maintenance (database maintenance, trouble ticketing, application training)
 - Client system optimization (on-site client government training, new feature profile development)
 - Software development in Java, XML/XHTML/JSE, and Python scripting
 - Data analytics: Extracting key reports from the database, client data use consultations

Technology Rediscovery LLC looks forward to ongoing collaboration with Youth Enrichment Services in offering highly accessible and extremely relevant workforce and technology training.

Sincerely,



Eric C Darsow
Founder and CEO, Technology Rediscovery LLC
412.894.3929 (w) | echocharliedelta@protonmail.com

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