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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
July 7, 2015

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Mayor Steven Fulop and JPMorgan Chase Announce \$1 Million Workforce Investment in Jersey City to Provide Skills-Based Job Training for Residents

Jersey City Organizations Receive Grants as Part of JPMorgan Chase’s \$250 Million New Skills at Work Initiative; Two-Year Investment Builds on Administration’s Efforts to Expand Job Creation and Job Training Programs

JERSEY CITY – **Mayor Steven M. Fulop** and **JPMorgan Chase** announced today a **\$1 million investment over the next two years** to Jersey City as part of JPMorgan Chase’s \$250 million New Skills at Work initiative, which is funding workforce development in cities across the nation. The \$1 million investment in Jersey City will assist the administration’s efforts in building a system which meets the demands of Jersey City’s business community and its workforce by analyzing the job skills needs of local employers, as well as investing in local job training programs.

“We have set the stage for a workforce renaissance in Jersey City through policies that both create jobs and provide training and access to employment,” said **Mayor Fulop**. “This significant investment from JPMorgan Chase will allow us to bring that to the next level by offering residents access to the kind of quality training they need to secure skilled jobs and advance their careers.”

The investment by JPMorgan Chase through the New Skills at Work Initiative will help residents gain the skills they need to compete in the labor market. Cities participating in the initiative will focus on local partnership formation, strengthening and scaling effective workforce training programs, and the use of data-driven analysis to determine the job skills needs of local employers to ensure the training programs offered to Jersey City residents are equipping them with in-demand skills. Other cities who are receiving funding from JPMorgan Chase include New York City, Los Angeles, Chicago, and San Francisco.

This initial investment will include the **funding of Jersey City's first Skills Gap Report** and a **Workforce Summit**, as well as expanding the **Jersey City Summer Internship Program**. Additionally, JPMorgan Chase is investing in local organizations that support Jersey City’s training programs, including the **Logistics Center at New Jersey City University** and **NPower**, whose work will focus on the rising sectors of information technology; transportation, logistics, and distribution; and healthcare.

“At JPMorgan Chase, we believe we have a fundamental responsibility to help the communities where we live and work navigate complex social challenges,” said **Alma DeMetropolis, Managing Director and New Jersey Market President for JPMorgan Chase**. “This \$1 million commitment is one more way JPMorgan Chase is helping Jersey City businesses and communities grow.”

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Since taking office, Mayor Fulop has aggressively and strategically worked to promote job creation and strengthen workforce development pipelines throughout Jersey City, which has resulted in over 9,500 new jobs over the last two years. The administration has implemented a broad range of policies to attract businesses and residential development, and actively engages in collaborative public-private partnerships, which now offer industry-driven training programs for the area's residents.

JC Summer Works, the Mayor's summer youth employment initiative launched in the summer of 2014, has employed nearly 2,000 youth since launching and features a wide range of employment and enrichment opportunities for the City's youth, including professional development workshops, free certification programs, and ladder employment opportunities geared towards a variety of skill levels.

Under Mayor Fulop, the Jersey City Employment and Training Program (JCETP) has also expanded to offer a variety of new training and vocational programs, including an EMT certification course in partnership with the Jersey City Medical Center-Barnabas Health, CDL and logistics training in partnership with Jobs for the Future, and a construction skills apprenticeship program with the Hudson County Building Trades. JCETP continues to add partnerships with such companies as Ahold, Blue Apron, Eastern Millwork, Schuster, KRE, and Kushner Realty, as well as with dozens of hospitality and food and beverage establishments across the city.

As part of its investment, **JPMorgan Chase & Co. will underwrite the \$100,000 cost for the city's first comprehensive Skills Gap Report** and the **Jersey City Workforce Summit** in partnership with the Jersey City Economic Development Corporation. The **Skills Gap Report** will provide the critical labor market data needed to inform current and future employer-informed training programs and career pathway activities. The Report will serve as actionable research for the **Jersey City Workforce Summit**, which will convene industry leaders, workforce training programs, institutes of higher education and community leaders to facilitate ongoing collaboration that strengthen the workforce pipeline.

JPMorgan Chase will also invest \$75,000 for the Jersey City Summer Internship Program, a highly competitive program open to the city's public high school seniors, which places students in primarily private sector internships throughout the city. Chase's support of JCSI is now in its second year, **following a \$60,000 grant in 2014**, with the corporation underwriting an expanded JCSI program with increased employer engagement and professional development activities.

"By continuing its investment in the Jersey City Summer Internship program, JPMorgan Chase has recognized the program's successful track record and the importance of investing in high quality programming that exposes young people to authentic work experiences and career enrichment activities," said **Deputy Mayor Vivian Brady-Phillips**. "In addition, the Skills Gap Report and Jersey City Workforce Summit will strengthen our ability to identify and support workforce initiatives to help residents develop the skills they need for competitive jobs that help the economy grow."

Funding from JPMorgan Chase in the amount of \$125,000 will also support the Logistics Center at New Jersey City University, an innovative workforce development program which trains workers in warehousing and distribution, provides employers with a pipeline of highly skilled employees with a set of core industry competencies to meet their demand for trained workers in transportation, distribution and logistics (TLD), and offers a Research and Development training center for emerging technology trends in workforce and economic development. The grant from JPMorgan Chase will support employer engagement efforts to provide the necessary link between the TLD training program, job placement, economic mobility, and measure outcomes.

"NJCU's Logistics Center is honored to partner with JPMorgan Chase & Co. and the City of Jersey City to provide a coordinated employment pipeline for the region's TLD workforce," said **Sue Henderson, president of NJCU**. "We look forward to furthering our engagement with area businesses to train incumbent and new employees to meet their needs, from warehousing and supply chain logistics and beyond, using the sector's most cutting-edge tools in training and technology."

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The investment will also support NPower, which will open its first New Jersey location this fall in the Logistics Center at NJCU. NPower is an organization that mobilizes the tech community to provide training to individuals, nonprofits and schools to build their tech skills to meet the needs of information technology employers. NPower will receive \$100,000 in order to help launch the Jersey City Technology Service Corps program. NPower will train and prepare young adults ages 18 to 24 for careers in information technology through its intensive 22-week program that includes classroom instruction and an internship in a corporation or other community entity, with most participants graduating the program certified in the CompTIA A+ certification.

“NPower is excited to launch our Technology Service Corps program in Jersey City this year with JPMorgan Chase & Co.’s support and in partnership with NJCU,” said **Stephanie Cuskley, Chief Executive Officer of NPower**. “Our Technology Service Corps program will provide training for underserved young adults through our free technical skills and professional development training, as well as employment and alumni services. We look forward to working with Jersey City’s private sector to develop customized training that meets their hiring needs, in order to equip youth with the skills they need to start their careers in information technology.”

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