

May 18, 2017

Dear Business Leaders of Sacramento:

When I took office as Mayor of the City of Sacramento in December, I announced my commitment to work with local businesses to address a major community challenge: how to create a more robust, skilled, and experienced young workforce. For us to prosper today and tomorrow as a community, it's important for us to rise up and come together – from employers to school districts to the government – to better prepare young people for college and career.

Last week, I announced the official launch of our new and clear direction: *Thousand Strong*. *Thousand Strong* is a bold workforce development initiative that brings together school districts, high schools, community based organizations, state and local funding partners, students, and businesses to provide year-round, paid internships for local youth while fostering a highly trained and diversified workforce for Sacramento businesses.

The goal is to provide 9-12 month-long paid internships for one thousand students in Sacramento. This is where we need your help.

Sacramento has one of the highest youth unemployment rates in the country; it is critical for us to ensure our young people are being prepared for future careers and that we are preparing the workforce we need to succeed as a community. Nothing is more key than a positive internship experience that helps our businesses thrive, helps our youth learn about the workplace, and prepares them to step forward on a path to meaningful and lifelong employment.

Hiring motivated youth and helping to prepare them for the world of work isn't just a noble cause, it makes a direct impact on your own business and the economic health of our entire community. **Join us today by committing to hiring a student for a paid, 9-12 month-long internship.** Make this a part of your business and investment strategy.

The time is now to address our skilled labor shortages and to accelerate careers for Sacramento youth. Can we count you in our team of one *Thousand Strong*?

To join us, visit <https://ThousandStrong.org>. Together, we can strengthen Sacramento's workforce, future, and community.

Sincerely,


DARRELL STEINBERG
Mayor