



Innovation & Technology Inclusion Council

May 20, 2021

4:00 PM

Webex

ITIC Members & DC Government Staff Present: Thomas Sanchez (Chair), Bill Bellows, Jim Chung, Glennette Clark, Wayne Curtis, Ryan Maliszewski, Cleve Mesidor, Kevin Morgan, Nasir Qadree, Scott Rechler, Adam Rubinson, Grant Warner, Joycelyn James (DMPED)

Other Presenters: Bryan Parker (Legal Innovators), Lee Buoy (Quorum), Ryan Stevens (Clutch)

MINUTES

I. Welcome & Roll Call Thomas Sanchez & Joycelyn James

T. Sanchez recognized Scott Rechler for work with LearnServe and recent gala, and Jim Chung for work with GW entrepreneurship center and awards to new ventures in virtual incubator program.

II. Guest Speakers

A. Bryan Parker, Co-Founder and CEO of [Legal Innovators](#)

Legal Innovators derisks hiring for law firms, helps firms develop a diversity, equity, and inclusion strategy and pipeline for diversity by expanding outreach to HBCU law schools and strong regional law schools; shared whitepaper “Restoring Lost Hope” on driving DEI change in the legal industry.

B. Lee Buoy, Inclusion & Diversity Co-Chair at Quorum

[Path for Progress](#) Inclusion & Diversity initiative, step by step outline to help small/medium organizations build diversity; program is an outgrowth of Quorum’s Inclusion and Diversity Council; Path for Progress pledge, for individuals with decision making authority who can steer the direction of the company.

C. Ryan Stevens, Head of Operations, [Clutch](#)

DC-based B-to-B services ratings and review platform; helps service providers connect with potential buyers for free; focus over the last year has been how to build out certifications for minority, women, LGBTQ+, veteran owned businesses; Clutch is a Path for Progress participant.

III. DMPED Updates Joycelyn James

A. Inclusive Innovation Equity Impact Fund Grant Program

A grant for \$1.25 million for a Fund Manager to manage a fund to increase access to capital for Equity Impact Enterprises with less than \$2 million in revenue a year; Fund Manager will provide investments and technical assistance for eligible businesses; applications open now close June 7.

B. JLabs QuickFire Challenge

Johnson & Johnson Innovation has located a JLabs incubator in DC at the Walter Reed Campus; this QuickFire Challenge is a global business plan competition using DC-data to focus on improving health outcomes for maternal mortality, heart disease, and kidney disease; winners will receive 1-year residency at JLabs DC, mentorship, and award of up to \$250,000; application is open until June 11.

John Falcicchio
Deputy Mayor



C. Pathways to Inclusion Update

2016 Pathways to Inclusion report was the first measurement of all of the economic development inputs in the tech economy; will work with WDCEP to create a new report, update progress on recommendations, develop new recommendations, and explore how COVID has impacted inclusion in the DC tech ecosystem; will reach out to the ITIC for interviews/feedback.

IV. Discussion

A. Adam Rubinson, Hire DC

Committee was developed to find ways to get DC residents hired during COVID recovery and find longer-term solutions beyond recovery; brainstormed ideas, learned of other initiatives from the Workforce Investment Council, DC Chamber, and Federal City Council; considering a number of tax, cash, and hiring incentives; will share more detailed statement as it is developed.

B. Other Updates

N. Qadree – recommended Washington Business Journal article from week of May 10 on inclusion-focused leaders in the ecosystem.

R. Maliszewski – thanked Mayor’s office for providing restaurant industry relief through grants and advocacy such as third-party delivery commission caps

J. Chung – Innovation District action plan RFP partnership with Golden Triangle

V. Closing

T. Sanchez – reminder that May is AAPI Heritage Month, June is Pride Month, ITIC will meet again in July

J. James – DMPED will return to office in July; awaiting further guidance from Mayor’s Office of Talent & Appointments on future in-person meetings.

Time: 1 hour, 9 minutes

