

PATHWAYS TO PROSPERITY NYC: MAYOR'S DAY ONE ACTIONS

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1. **Announce the creation of a Mayoral Commission on Education and the Economy**, chaired by a Deputy Mayor, top business leader, and the CUNY Chancellor. This commission should be empowered to propose changes that can be enacted by the city, as well as the development of an effort to change policies at the state level to support braided learning pathways to better connect education with employment.
2. **Create a Mayoral Office for Talent Development** that incorporates the Mayor's Center for Youth Employment and Office of Workforce Development, along with representatives from the NYC Economic Development Corporation, NYC Dept of Education, CUNY, the Dept of Youth and Community Development, to carry out the recommendations of the commission and ensure a coordinated, coherent effort.
3. **Announce the twin goals of Universal Summer Youth jobs and NYC Youth Corps** as the initial programmatic steps to begin the process of modernizing NYC's talent development strategy to meet the opportunities and demands of the 21st century.

By aligning to achieve a shared, citywide goal of every young person launching into a family sustaining career by age 25, New York City can build the talent we need for a thriving, inclusive economy and retain our competitive advantage.

As New York City emerges from COVID-19, now is the moment to rebuild an economy that is stronger than before—an equitable, thriving economy that is powered by local talent and includes young people of color. The next Mayor can begin creating this new economy on the first day in office.

THE CHALLENGE

Our economy is based on the assumption that we do a good job matching talent to opportunity. We don't—and the result is an economy that leaves young Black and Latinx New Yorkers behind and squanders talent and resources. New approaches that successfully connect schooling and employment for public high school and college students should be a primary lever in our city's economic recovery.

We need a talent development system that braids learning from work into academic credentials, beginning in our high schools and continuing at CUNY. This braided strategy is cost efficient, effective, and equitable, and serves students, employers, and the economy. Work-based learning (WBL) activities pair in-school curriculum with employment opportunities. Students do meaningful work that builds on their academic instruction to further develop their skills, interests and networks. Employers get to develop talent pipelines from under-represented communities.

PATHWAYS TO PROSPERITY NYC:

Building a Thriving, Inclusive Economy Powered By Our Students

THE VISION AND LEADERSHIP WE NEED FROM OUR NEXT MAYOR

Change mindsets: Our next Mayor should encourage schools to braid learning from work into traditional academic pathways, and measure school success not only on graduation rates, but on the extent to which students can make informed postsecondary choices directed toward their choice of careers. By doing so, we will empower students to understand their own talents and interests, build a professional network, gain transferable skills, and be better positioned to navigate the 21st century labor market. Employers will benefit from and have access to career-ready, local talent.

Make best practice common practice: Some employers, high schools, and CUNY programs are already braiding learning from work into traditional curricula and instruction. The next Mayor needs to put braided pathways at the center of their economic development agenda by elevating and investing in expansion of this practice.

THE FIRST SET OF POLICIES TO MOVE THE NEEDLE

- **Enact Universal School-Connected SYEP.** Every public high school student should have the option of a paid summer job that aligns with their interests, created with the support of their schools. Schools will then be well positioned to braid learning from work into their student supports, curriculum, and course sequences beginning in 9th grade.
- **Expand credit for concurrent learning at CUNY.** Most CUNY students work. Students should get credit for those experiences and formal recognition of how much they learn on the job. [The Bronx Recovery Corps](#) at Lehman College is just one example of how schools and employers can work together to make this happen.
- **Embed youth internships, apprenticeships, and other braided learning opportunities in City, State, and Federal economic development strategies.** For example, City agency RFPs could give respondents bonus points based on the strength of their strategies to train and employ NYC DOE and CUNY students for promising careers. Requirements for paid internships and apprenticeships could be embedded in the City's procurement policies.
- **Create a NYC Youth Corps.** Leverage Federal and State stimulus funding to position youth talent development at the center of the City's economic recovery and development strategy. A NYC Youth Corps could serve as an umbrella effort ensuring that these positions contribute to the City's well being, provide transferable skills training, and position students for career and college success.

Read more about our campaign for braided learning: [Pathways to Prosperity NYC: Building a Thriving, Inclusive Economy Powered by Our Students!](#)

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