With temperatures rising, vaccines readily available, a robust mayoral race narrowing, and the City reopening, Summer 2021 is proving to be a season for growth, energy, and renewal. Amidst the frenzy of activity, HERE to HERE is not simply “returning to normal,” but instead “striving for better.”

We all are welcoming interns again through the fully reinstated SYEP program, the Braided Pathways Fund RFP is out—building on the work of the Key Distinguishers Task Force, the Pathways to Prosperity NYC campaign is underway, and we’re taking lessons learned from SY2021 to help support schools in our High School Network deepen their commitment to work-based learning (WBL) in the coming school year. In the field, you all are doing amazing work as well. Lehman’s Bronx Recovery Corps is expanding and has inspired the creation of a Brooklyn Recovery Corps, and NYC DOE is making a new investment in WBL this summer.

We are excited to share all of this great news in this edition of our newsletter.

The HERE to HERE Team
The Bronx Recovery Corps

36 students successfully completed the January 2021 pilot of Lehman's Bronx Recovery Corps, and the program will expand to 50 students in the 2021-22 school year, and an additional 10 Fellows will join in summer 2022.

BRC is a replicable model for NYC and national corps programs on how young people can receive credit while contributing to their community. In fact, it has already inspired the City to invest $4.5 million over 5 years to create the Brooklyn Recovery Corps at Medgar Evers College.

HERE to HERE walked the walk, and hosted our own BRC Fellow, Morely Luciano, this spring. As an Operations Fellow, Morely provided day-to-day support on Salesforce and other office operations. Read more about Morely.

Work-Based Learning Partnership Incubator

On June 23, the DOE announced the Work-Based Learning Partnership Incubator, which will provide over a million dollars in new public and private funding this summer, to support school-CBO partnerships that engage high school students in WBL activities to enhance academic recovery efforts.

Summer 2021 student participants will receive up to $599 in stipends and are recruited from schools with high numbers of students who do not have or are ineligible for SYEP. The DOE is also receiving additional capacity to manage and document this work, with an eye toward expansion in the Fall and beyond.
This initiative started with a concept paper drafted in April by HERE to HERE, The Fund for Public Schools, ExpandEd Schools, Teens Take Charge, the Urban Assembly, and others, and represents a victory for all braided pathways advocates.

Key Disguishers Task Force & Braided Pathways Fund RFP

"It's worth investing the time and resources now so that you can impact the workforce of the future." - Jessica Johnson-Cope, President, Johnson Security Bureau

Thank you to the 100+ students, educators, employers, CBOs, funders, and more who joined us between March and May to create the Key Distinguishers, a set of criteria that help all stakeholders involved in youth talent development ensure they are meeting shared expectations for a high-quality, impactful system that braids learning from work into traditional academic pathways and works well for ALL students, employers, and the economy. The growing community of stakeholders championing WBL was evident at these convenings, as leaders across settings shared how the Key Distinguishers are being used to advance braided pathways, the structural barriers that make it challenging, and the policy and systems changes necessary to remove the barriers.

Continuing the momentum we’ve built over the last few months and putting the Key Distinguishers into action, on July 6 we released a Request For Proposals to increase access to WBL opportunities and transform the youth talent development system. With support from the Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation and the Deutsche Bank Americas Foundation, the Braided Pathways Fund will provide 10-20 grants of up to $50,000 each to New York City public high
schools, CUNY institutions and CBO partners who are using the Key Distinguishers within new or existing WBL institutions or programs. Applications are due August 13, and awards will be announced in September.

Register today for an informational webinar on Tuesday, July 13, 3-4 PM. The info session will be recorded and posted on our website. For more information, see the list of FAQs.

Funders who are interested in adding resources to the Braided Pathways Fund, please contact Abby Jo Sigal at asigal@heretohere.org or Apurva Mehrotra at amehrotra@heretohere.org.

Summer Youth Employment Program

We are thrilled to see students re-engaged with Summer Youth Employment Program (SYEP) starting July 6! This summer nearly 75,000 young people will have work opportunities across 13,000+ diverse work sites. This includes 20,000 school-connected opportunities that link summer work experience directly to what students are learning in the classroom. Additionally, 5,000 CUNY students will work with over 700 employers through the CUNY Recovery Corps.

Thank you to all of the people and organizations who organized last year to #SaveSYEP and make sure it was fully funded this year. Big shout out to the student advocates in particular, Teens Take Charge, with whom we advocated for SYEP restoration last year, and the YES Coalition.

HERE to HERE’s WBLL team supported SYEP providers this spring in cultivating new site partnerships, including connecting with CBOs and employers across NYC to identify several new and a few returning work sites, with a focus on STEM-based programs. New sites this summer include GenSpace, a community biology lab that provides hands-on STEAM education programs, and returners like The Intrepid Museum, who will be taking on high school and CUNY interns. To support employers and students, we assisted sites through the application process and facilitated 1:1 orientations with providers such as South Bronx Rising Together (SBRT). SBRT is providing its first-ever Civic Engagement Fellowship, a comprehensive racial justice and civics education centered around local government structures and policies. Participants receive stipends paid for by SBRT and SYEP.
Student Ambassadors & Interns

HERE to HERE Policy Intern La'Toya Beecham performs an original spoken word poem at the final Key Distinguishers Task Force meeting.

HERE to HERE’s second cohort of Student Ambassadors and our Interns have continued to inform the WBL space and advance how we collectively activate student voice this year. Some notable examples include:

- Jordan leading conversations with teachers at Bronx Center for Science and Mathematics about reimagining the school curriculum to incorporate WBL;
- Leyla collaborating with DreamYard Prep administrators on ways to activate a junior WBL coordinator;
- La'Toya presenting an original spoken word piece at the Key Distinguishers Task Force and recording it for the Gates Foundation; and
- Hailey and Nialexis contributing to the design and editorial direction of HERE to HERE’s forthcoming Impact Report.

A special thanks to all our students for their valuable contributions this year! Our work advancing a new youth talent development system would not be possible without them.
High School Network & Work-Based Learning Labs

Throughout a school year like no other, our Work-Based Learning Labs team supported the 15 schools in our High School Network to embed and expand WBL opportunities. In recent End-of-Year meetings with Network school partners we reflected together on valuable insights into schools’ visions, goals and priorities for School Year 2022.

Several common themes emerged from these discussions including:

- The critical role of employer/CBO partnerships in school communities,
- The importance of leveraging student voice and input to drive program design,
- The desire to create more robust advisory curriculums anchored around career readiness and career explorations,
- A growing emphasis on social and emotional learning (SEL) as a key part of their “return to school” planning in an effort to reacclimate student to being in school,
- Leveraging technology and lessons learned from this pandemic to connect the classroom with career in new exciting ways, and
- The value-add that HERE to HERE coaching & resources bring to strengthening the capacity of school staff.

To learn more about HERE to HERE’s High School Network and how to join, contact our Director of 9-16 Education Partnerships Brandon Slaughter at bslaughter@heretohere.org.

Pathways to Prosperity NYC

Pathways to Prosperity NYC means:

- Young Black and Brown New Yorkers get an equal shot at pursuing their career ambitions
- Employers gain a wealth of local talent with the skills to succeed on Day One
- NYC’s economy thrives and grows

This spring, HERE to HERE and employer, educator, CBO, and student partners launched the Pathways to Prosperity NYC campaign calling on the next mayor to invest in a new youth talent development system that better integrates education and employment, and center NYC’s economic recovery on our young people.

Highlights from the campaign so far include: a feature in Crain’s New York Business, a Daily News Letter to the Editor calling to invest in young people, and a New York Times Letter to...
the Editor calling for on-the-job learning to be a central part of school offering credit for part-time work.

Please join us in this effort! To learn more and get involved, contact our Director of External Affairs Stephanie Ramirez at prosperitynyc@heretohere.org.

Emerging Leaders Program EOY Spotlight

55 10th and 11th graders from Bronx Center for Science and Math, The Lab School of Finance and Tech, Comp Sci High, and Fannie Lou Hamer Freedom High School recently participated in the Emerging Leaders Program Spring Showcase. The 10 groups spent six weeks creating a business proposal for a new airport terminal at JFK and presented their ideas before a panel of industry experts at JP Morgan Chase. The winning team received $3000, with the other teams receiving $1000 each. Congratulations to all the students who participated! Special thanks to the mentors at JP Morgan Chase who helped the students prepare for the event! Check out the presentations (passcode: F1t&p%H6).

Bronx Community Foundation Seeks Executive Director

The Bronx Community Foundation, the first and only community foundation in The Bronx solely dedicated to delivering resources to the entirety of the borough, seeks its first Executive Director. The Executive Director will have the incredible opportunity to work with Bronxites and local organizations to leverage community power, eradicate inequity and build sustainable futures for all Bronxites. The Executive Director will also lead initiatives like The Bronx Community Relief Effort, which raised and deployed significant rapid response resources—including food, technology, PPE (masks/gloves/hand-sanitizers), emergency supplies, grants and technical assistance to nonprofit organizations and small businesses, and cash cards to students and residents—throughout the borough in response to the pandemic last year. Interested? Apply Today.
My City, My Community

Are you (or someone you know) a young person with entrepreneurial ideas to advance social justice? You can win cash prizes from our friends at JobFirstNYC and the NYC Dept. of Youth & Community Development! All you need to do is identify a problem in your community and your solution to solve it, and share it via a one-minute video via social media using the hashtags #mycNYC, #MyCityMyCommunity, and #JobsFirstNYC. Learn More

JobsFirstNYC is also hosting "Adapting to the Future of Work: Surviving to Thriving," a panel featuring young entrepreneurs who have finessed their passions into a career path on July 22 from 9:30am to 1:30pm. This event is for 16-24 year-olds. Register today.

Creative Career Pathways

This spring, we released our Creative Career Pathways report in partnership with CareerWise New York, Pathways to Creative Industries, The Thinkubator and DreamYard. The report highlights the viability of creative career pathways for young people in New York City using research, data analysis and the voice of students and makes the case that creative career pathways could be especially meaningful for students from the Bronx. The report was featured in NYN Media and in a Daily News op-ed from the reports co-authors, HERE to HERE’s Vice President of Research and Analytics Apurva Mehrotra and Pathways to Creative Industries CEO and CareerWise
New York Vice President Dr. Joiselle Cunningham Smith. Thank you to all of the students and community-based organizations, including The Knowledge House, The Point, Pregones/PRTT, and Lehman College, who contributed to the report!

**Reimagining Our City**

The time is now to reimagine how we prepare all of our young people for successful, family sustaining careers and position our City for future success. Each day we come to work (virtually or in-person), we are blazing a path for a thriving, inclusive economy powered by our students. None of our work would be possible without our countless partners who so generously share their passions, knowledge, and insights to help realize our collective vision for a just and inclusive youth talent development system that works for all Bronx and NYC students, educators, and employers. To that, we say: Thank you, today and every day.