

Selected Remarks and Links

Please feel free to pull out any information or quotes from the below links, if helpful.

[White House TechHire page](#)

[President Obama Remarks at National League of Cities](#) - TechHire Launch

“So, today, I’m announcing a new initiative that we’re calling TechHire. And it’s going to be driven by leaders like you.”

“TechHire communities are going to help employers link up and find and hire folks based on their actual skills and not just their résumés. Because it turns out, it doesn’t matter where you learned code, it just matters how good you are in writing code. If you can do the job, you should get the job.”

“And while four-year degrees in engineering and computer science are still important, we have the opportunity to promote programs that we call, for example, coding boot camp -- or online courses that have pioneered new ways to teach tech skills in a fraction of the time and the costs. And these new models have the potential to reach underserved communities, to reach women, who are still underrepresented in this factor; and minorities, who are still underrepresented in this sector; and veterans, who we know can do the job; and lower-income workers, who might have the aptitude for tech jobs but they don’t know that these jobs are within reach.”

“... what TechHire is going to do is to help local leaders connect the job openings to the training programs to the jobs. And if you’re not already involved in this, you’ve got to get involved, because your community needs this just like everybody else does.”

“[M]y administration is committed to this initiative. We’ve got a lot of private and non-profit sectors leading the way. We want to get more onboard. But ultimately, success is going to rest on folks like you -- on mayors, councilmembers, local leaders -- because you’ve got the power to bring your communities together and seize this incredible economic development opportunity that could change the way we think about training and hiring the workers of tomorrow.”

“LaShana grew up in East St. Louis. She had a passion for computers. But because of circumstances, constraints, she wasn’t born with a silver spoon in her mouth. She wasn’t able to get a college degree, and because she didn’t have a college degree, she couldn’t even get an interview for a tech job, despite her coding skills. So she was working as a bus driver, and she was working in entry-level jobs.

But LaShana apparently is a stubborn person -- (laughter) -- which is good. Sometimes you need to be stubborn. So she refused to give up on her dream, and she used her free time to teach herself new computer skills. And she started going to a coding “meetup” that was run by LaunchCode, which is a non-for-profit that finds talented people across St. Louis and gives them the training and credibility for the tech jobs employers are desperately needing to fill as we speak. So LaShana had the skills. LaunchCode went to bat for her. And today, she’s a systems engineer at MasterCard.”

“So we’ve got to create more stories like LaShana’s. (Applause.) And if we do, then we are going to more effectively capture what is the boundless energy and talent of Americans who have the will, but sometimes need a little help clearing out the way. Help them get on a path to fill the new jobs of this new century.”

[President Obama Remarks at U.S. Conference of Mayors](#) – where he set forth a challenge to double the number of TechHire communities

“Three months ago, I launched an initiative called TechHire to help train workers for the high-skill, high-wage jobs of tomorrow. Twenty-one communities have signed up for TechHire so far, and we’re looking to double that number. So if your town has tech jobs that need filling to people who want to fill them, come join us.”

“...we’re creating jobs, we’re training folks for jobs.”

[TechHire Factsheet](#) (2015 launch)

TechHire is a bold multi-sector effort and call to action to empower Americans with the skills they need, through universities and community colleges but also nontraditional approaches like “coding bootcamps,” and high-quality online courses that can rapidly train workers for a well-paying job, often in just a few months. Employers across the United States are in critical need of talent with these skills. Many of these programs do not require a four-year degree.

Key elements of the initiative include:

- Over twenty forward-leaning communities are committing to take action – working with each other and with national employers – to expand access to tech jobs. To kick off TechHire, 20 regions, with over 120,000 open technology jobs and more than 300 employer partners in need of this workforce, are announcing plans to work together to new ways to recruit and place applicants based on their actual skills and to create more fast track tech training opportunities. The President is challenging other communities across the country to follow their lead.
- \$100 million in new Federal investments to train and connect more workers to a good job in technology and other in-demand fields. The Administration will launch a \$100 million H-1B grant competition by the Department of Labor to support innovative approaches to training and successfully employing low-skill individuals with barriers to training and employment including those with child care responsibilities, people with disabilities, disconnected youth, and limited English proficient workers, among others. This grant competition will support the scaling up of evidence-based strategies such as accelerated learning, work-based learning, and Registered Apprenticeships.
- Private sector tools and resources to support and expand continued innovation in technology training, with a focus on reaching under-served populations. Private sector leaders are announcing commitments to provide free training through online training

slots and expanding “coding bootcamps” – which provide intensive training for well-paying jobs, often in the course of just a few months – to low-income and underserved Americans including women, minorities, and veterans across the nation. National organizations are committing to work with interested cities to share job and skills information, job-matching tools, and other resources to help support the growth, adoption, and creation of promising practices across the United States.

[TechHire 1-Year Anniversary factsheet](#) (March 2016)

Last June, at the U.S. Conference of Mayors, the President called on mayors, councilmembers, and other local leaders to team up with employers, training providers, and workforce and economic development leaders to double the number of TechHire communities from 21 to more than 40. Over the past year, more communities have continued to sign on.

Today, the Administration announced that we have exceeded the goal set by the President with the addition of 15 new communities – for a total of 50 communities and over 600 employer partners working together to expand access to tech jobs.

[TechHire Grants factsheet](#) (June 2016)

Today, Vice President Biden and Department of Labor Secretary Perez announced the release of \$150 million in Department of Labor grants for 39 partnerships across the country. With these funds, awardees will launch innovative training and placement models to develop tech talent, as a way to keep and create jobs in local economies. In addition to federal funding, grantees are leveraging nearly \$50 million in philanthropic, private and other funding to contribute to their own local partnerships.

A Large and Growing Opportunity for Local Economies

Having a pipeline of tech talent can be an important factor in bringing new jobs to local economies, facilitating business growth, and lifting more local residents into the middle class. These grants will enable more communities to expand their own local tech sectors.

- **Tech jobs are a pathway to the middle class.** Tech jobs pay one and a half times the average wage of a private-sector job. Studies have shown that these opportunities are also accessible to those without college degrees-- men and women with non-degree certificates in computer or information services earned more than 65 percent of men and women, respectively, with more traditional Associate degrees.
- **There is a large and growing unmet demand for tech workers.** Today, there are over 600,000 open IT jobs across all sectors – more than two-thirds in fields outside the tech sector, such as manufacturing, financial services and healthcare. Across the country, employers are struggling to find skilled talent for these positions. A study from CEB found that in 10 major metropolitan areas (including New York, Atlanta, Seattle, and Houston), there are only five skilled job seekers available for every eight open IT jobs. Compared to 2010, it now takes employers five additional weeks to fill the average vacancy – at a cost to employers of \$8.6 million per 1,000 vacancies.

- **New innovations in training and hiring can help meet the tech job demand.** Nearly 40 percent of tech jobs do not require a four-year degree. In recent years, there has been a proliferation of fast-track tech training programs like “coding bootcamps” that prepare people with little technical know-how for tech jobs, often in just a few months. A recent survey from Course Report found that bootcamp graduates saw salary gains of 38 percent (or about \$18,000) after completing their programs. At the same time, employers in cities like Albuquerque have been adopting new “skills-based” hiring approaches that enable job seekers to demonstrate their skills to get hired even if they lack traditional qualifications like computer science degrees.
- **Tech talent can be an important driver of local economic development.** Companies report that one of the main factors in deciding where to locate is the availability of skilled talent. Moreover, research from economist Enrico Moretti shows that for each job in the average high-tech firm, five new jobs are indirectly created in local economies.