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Mayor Fulop Announces Return of ‘Saturday Jump Start’ Career Development Sessions for Young Jersey City Residents as Administration Continues to Expand Employment Opportunities and Enrichment Programs

Initiative is Supported by a \$15,000 Grant from Actavis and Offers Local Youth Free Career Development and college Preparatory Sessions as Well as Skill Certifications in Various Fields

JERSEY CITY –**Mayor Steven M. Fulop** and the **Jersey City Economic Development Corporation (EDC)** announced today the return of ‘**Saturday Jump Starts**,’ free career enrichment and college preparatory sessions offered in partnership with local companies, colleges, universities and nonprofit organizations as the **Fulop administration continues to expand employment opportunities and career development programs.**

The program, which is part of Mayor Fulop’s JC Summer Works youth employment initiative, is supported through a \$15,000 grant from Actavis.

“We’re continuing to invest in Jersey City’s young residents and their futures by giving them meaningful opportunities to learn about college and exposure to high-quality professional development sessions,” said **Mayor Fulop**. “We are thankful for the support of Actavis and its partnerships with our wide range of partners for contributing opportunities for Jersey City youth.”

Through Saturday Jump Starts, residents, ages 15 to 21, can earn certifications in digital literacy, CPR and babysitting, develop financial literacy skills with Operation Hope, hone their public speaking skills, and tour local companies. Participants can also earn community service credit from the Jersey City Public Schools. The program kicked off last week with a Babysitter Certification Course offered by the American Red Cross at the Bethune Community Center at 140 Martin Luther King, Jr. Drive.

"At Actavis, we recognize our corporate social responsibility by actively contributing to economic, environmental and philanthropic initiatives that improve the quality of life in the communities we serve locally, nationally and globally," said **Loredana Cromarty, Executive Director of U.S. state government affairs for Actavis**. "This \$15,000 commitment to the Jersey City Summer Works Initiative will support the Saturday Jump Start program that provides professional development and enrichment opportunities for Jersey City youth."

The goal of the Saturday Jump Start Program is to expand horizons for younger Jersey City residents by providing them with real opportunities to learn new skills and to network with professionals and peers. This year, through the generous support of Actavis, the program has expanded the range and diversity of its events, including more college tours in partnership with local colleges and universities at Hudson County Community College, New Jersey City University, Rutgers University-New Brunswick and Farleigh Dickinson University.

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Additional program partners include Jersey City Medical Center, American Red Cross, Operation Hope, and the Jersey City Public Schools.

“It was great to be a part of a program that focused on the skills that are not taught in the classroom,” said **Michael Gadsden, a 2014 participant of Saturday Jump Starts**. “All the workshops were engaging, fun, and informative, and it was clear how much I and the other attendees appreciated the program. The fact that the JC Summer Works team came to the schools throughout the week to advertise the workshops and explain the benefit of attending really shows how committed they were to reaching all students, and that’s why I was willing to go to as many as I did.”

Since taking office, Mayor Fulop has aggressively and strategically worked to promote job creation and strengthen workforce development pipelines throughout Jersey City, which has resulted in over 9,500 new jobs over the last two years. The administration has implemented a broad range of policies to attract businesses and residential development, and actively engages in collaborative public-private partnerships, which now offer industry-driven training programs for the area’s residents.

JC Summer Works is a summer employment and enrichment initiative that will impact approximately 2,000 Jersey City youth. In addition to Saturday Jump Starts, JC Summer Works includes the Jersey City Summer Internship Program, which places young residents in competitive internships and leading companies and institutions, summer youth employment within the Recreation department, City Youth Jobs program, a municipal jobs program in various municipal departments, including Law, the Business Administrator's Office, Communications, the Jersey City Public Library and others; and the Summer Works Arts Program, which provides arts enrichment and financial compensation for participants who support the public mural arts program.

This year, JCSI placed approximately 60 public high school students in paid internships at prestigious institutions across Jersey City and in neighboring cities. Participating institutions included Brown Brothers & Harriman, Connell Foley, the Depository Trust & Clearing Corporation, Dixon Advisory, Eastern Millwork, Inc., the Federal Farm Credit Funding Corporation, Fidelity Investments, Genova Burns, Goldman Sachs, Goya Foods, Hudson County Community College, Hyatt Regency Jersey City, the Jersey City Economic Development Corporation, the Jersey City Medical Center, JP Morgan Chase & Co., KCG Holdings, Inc., the Liberty Science Center, Mack-Cali Realty Corporation, New Jersey City University, PricewaterhouseCoopers, Saint Peter’s University, Sims Metal Management, Tropicana Products, Inc., United Water, the United Way, VF Sportswear, Inc., and Women Rising.

Last week, Mayor Steven M. Fulop and JPMorgan Chase announced a \$1 million investment over the next two years to Jersey City as part of JPMorgan Chase’s \$250 million New Skills at Work initiative, which is funding workforce development in cities across the nation. The \$1 million investment in Jersey City will assist the administration’s efforts in building a system which meets the demands of Jersey City’s business community and its workforce by analyzing the job skills needs of local employers, as well as investing in local job training programs.

The ‘Saturday Jump Start’ workshops are offered every Saturday through August 14th. To participate in the workshops, youth must register in advance at www.jerseycitysummerworks.org.

ABOUT ACTIVAS

Actavis plc (NYSE: ACT), headquartered in Dublin, Ireland, is a unique, global pharmaceutical company and a leader in a new industry model - Growth Pharma. Actavis is focused on developing, manufacturing and commercializing innovative branded pharmaceuticals, high-quality generic and over-the-counter medicines and biologic products for patients around the world. For more information, visit Actavis' website at www.actavis.com.

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