Tech Council of Delaware receives grant from Bank of America to launch the Milken Center for Advancing the American Dream Academy in Delaware

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Wilmington, DE, May 18, 2023 – Tech Council of Delaware, a non-profit organization dedicated to strengthening the local tech ecosystem and improving workforce diversity, has received a $25,000 grant from Bank of America to launch the Milken Center for Advancing the American Dream (MCAAD) Academy in Delaware.

The grant will allow the Tech Council of Delaware to enroll 100 residents from New Castle, Kent, and Sussex Counties in the American Dream Academy, a tuition-free, six-month online learning program designed to give young Americans the skills and training they need to pursue a great job or continue their education. By earning an American Dream Academy credential, learners improve their chances of qualifying for entry-level tech positions, thereby increasing their economic mobility.

According to the Milken Center for Advancing the American Dream, “The American Dream Academy scholarship program is one of the most ambitious efforts to date using online learning to further employment opportunities for young Americans from disadvantaged communities.”

As a workforce intermediary, the Tech Council of Delaware, its members and strategic partners work collaboratively to create innovative workforce solutions and training programs to close skill gaps, build diverse talent pipelines, and eliminate structural barriers that prevent underrepresented Delawareans from connecting with, and thriving in, high-quality tech careers.

The Council plans to market the Milken Center’s American Dream Academy through its Tech Community Partners Collaborative committee, which is comprised of community-based organizations that provide services to residents across the state who are seeking to develop in-demand skills and advance their careers. Outreach and information sessions take place in June, and the application period opens in July. Learners will be onboarded in August, and training is set to begin in mid-September.

Through the American Dream Academy, the Tech Council of Delaware is providing a valuable resource to Delawareans aged 18-24 who want to launch a tech career but may not have the required education or know exactly where to start.
“The Tech Council of Delaware is giving young adults from low-income communities the opportunities they need to become more marketable and attain high-wage employment,” said Chip Rossi, Delaware President, Bank of America. “We continue to support their innovative efforts to build a thriving and inclusive tech sector in Delaware.”

“Investments in underrepresented talent strengthen Delaware’s tech ecosystem and result in economic benefits for families, local communities, and the state overall. We appreciate Bank of America’s generous award and continued support of the Tech Council of Delaware,” said Zakiyyah Ali, Executive Director, Tech Council of Delaware.

The grant is part of Bank of America’s philanthropic giving efforts in local communities. Awardees were selected for their commitment to addressing basic needs and workforce development for individuals and families.

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**About Tech Council of Delaware**

Tech Council of Delaware is a non-profit workforce intermediary dedicated to strengthening the local tech ecosystem and improving workforce diversity. The Council unites tech career seekers, employers, community organizations, and training and workforce providers around a collective vision to improve the lives of Delaware residents and support a thriving tech sector in the state by building and expanding inclusive tech talent pipelines. By building inclusive pipelines and a strong tech ecosystem, the Council aims to strengthen Delaware’s position and perception as a tech hub. Learn more at [techcouncilofdelaware.org](http://techcouncilofdelaware.org) and connect with the Council on [LinkedIn](https://www.linkedin.com/).

**About Bank of America**

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