Broadening Engagement in Community Leadership Roles is Necessary to Solve Entrenched Social Problems

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Urban Innovation21
Urban Innovation21 is a unique public-private partnership that is supporting the growth of entrepreneurship in our region’s innovation economy while simultaneously connecting that growth to underserved communities and the residents that live in those communities.

Urban Innovation21 believes that an inclusive innovation economy is key to increasing regional competitiveness and sustainability.
Urban Innovation21’s work is overseen and governed by a powerful and committed public private partnership of institutions of higher education, governmental entities, corporations, regional economic development organizations, financial lenders, charitable foundations and nonprofit organizations.
Urban Innovation21

Working to make sure all communities are connected to our region’s prosperity

Aerial View Oakland, Hill District and Downtown showing little economic activity in the Hill District - 2007
Community Transformation Through Cluster Based Entrepreneurship

Significant transformation that has occurred in the Greater Hill District from 2007 until today.

- 20 high growth companies have started up, relocated and are growing in the community
- Neighborhood image has changed for the better (i.e. business development and economic development can successfully occur)
- StartUptown (Region’s first Co-working Space in an Underserved Community) that is spurring additional investment in Uptown
- Catalytic Housing Development throughout the Hill District and Uptown
- Duquesne University Pharmacy
- YMCA
- Grocery Store
- Energy Innovation Center
- Hundreds of Millions of Dollars of Economic Development slated to occur in the next 10 years
Incentives to Connect Underserved Community to Region’s Prosperity

Pittsburgh Central Keystone Innovation Zone (PCKIZ) Incentives since 2007

**KIZ Tax Credit Program**
- $4M in direct cash assistance through the KIZ tax credit program

**PCKIZ Grant Program**
- $472,000 in early stage grant funding to 25 PCKIZ companies

**PCKIZ Internship Program**
- 396 paid internships

**Community Based Economic Development**
- Raised over $4M in direct funding for Hill District Based Economic Development organizations

**PCKIZ Consortium**
- Community partnerships to provide leadership & help coordinate economic development activities
Expanding our Region’s Economic Prosperity

Meet: StartUpTown
Grace Security, LLC Example of Successful Entrepreneur

Barbara Strother’s Owner of Grace Security, LLC
Urban Innovation21
Public Private Partnership

• History has shown that the work of solving social problems is too complex for one sector to do alone.
• Diverse approaches create better strategies
• Diverse Public Private Partnership take ownership of the organization’s goals and are actively involved in all aspects of the organization’s work.
• Diverse Public Private Partners view leadership different and looking outside normal channels to find leaders
Leaders of the future

• Leaders must not only have a diverse skill set but must also be creative leaders that can take an entrepreneurial approach to solving problems.

• To be effective, organizations must be as diverse as the communities that they serve (race, gender, age, religion etc...)

• Organizations must invest in growth and development of the diverse leaders of the future
Leaders of the future

• The development of diverse group of leaders is at the core of all of Urban Innovation21 programs. We integrate leadership development and training into all aspects of the work.