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**MINORITY YOUTH WORK WITH LOCAL CORPORATE PROFESSIONALS  
TO CO-LEARN MAKER TECHNOLOGY  
THREE PITTSBURGH CIVIC ORGANIZATIONS COLLABORATE TO PROVIDE PROGRAM**

**PITTSBURGH, APRIL 16, 2021** – Leaders in the current cohort of Leadership Pittsburgh have developed a collaboration which brings together Carnegie Science Center and Best of the Batch Foundation to participate in a full-day “maker” Bootcamp with minority youth. On Saturday, April 24 from 9 am to 4 pm, Leadership Pittsburgh participants representing area corporations and civic organizations will be paired with middle or high school minority students to participate in the Bootcamp so that they not only co-learn the technology but also create an environment where the leaders can share work and life experiences with the young learners and vice versa.

Through this collaborative project, Carnegie Science Center’s BNY Mellon Mobile Fab Lab team will bring digital fabrication equipment to the young learners at the headquarters of Best of the Batch Foundation in an effort to create better access to cutting-edge technology. The day long bootcamp will utilize 3D printers, laser and vinyl cutters, a Shop Bot, and more. Students will co-learn with their mentors the technology used in the STEM-based maker movement, taking their designs from computer screens to robotic machines. This unique partnership is meant to engage business leaders with young learners in a meaningful and fun way. A portion of the costs of this program are being underwritten by donations from the Federal Home Loan Bank of Pittsburgh and Koppers, Inc.

The successful completion of the Bootcamp would certify *all* parties on the machines. Due to the generosity of Carnegie Science Center, all participants will also then be able to attend Free Flow Days at Carnegie Science Center where they are able to use these machines free of charge. In addition, an exclusive free Fab Lab Open Workshop for this group also is being planned to take place on a Saturday at BNY Mellon Fab Lab Carnegie Science Center. This follow-up session will serve to further strengthen not only the technological learning but also the connections among the Leadership Pittsburgh and Best of the Batch Foundation participants.

“This is precisely the type of civic leadership initiative we hope to seed through our program,” said Aradhna Oliphant, President and CEO of Leadership Pittsburgh Inc. “Working creatively and collaboratively, in the middle of a global pandemic, these LP participants are working with LPI alumni to create more access and address the STEM career gap for students in our region. Our Board and I are so proud of them.”

Both the Best of the Batch and Leadership Pittsburgh participants also will be eligible to apply for the school year-long Mentors in the Making (MitM) program at BNY Mellon Fab Lab Carnegie Science Center which will use the same principles as the Bootcamp to create a capstone project in the semester for participating pairs. Additionally, virtual mixers are being planned where the previous and current MitM full-year attendees and Bootcamp attendees can interact and further develop connections and benefit from facilitated activities.

The core team of Leadership Pittsburgh XXXVII leading this collaboration is comprised of:

- Jason Brown, The Henry Buhl, Jr., Director, Carnegie Science Center
- Tim Hayes, President, Transverse Park Productions
- Lance Hyde, Director of Global Diversity and Inclusion, Koppers, Inc.
- Allison Karakis, Government Relations Director, Federal Home Loan Bank of Pgh
- Janell Logue-Belden, Superintendent, Deer Lakes School District
- David Mariner, Dean of Graduate and Professional Studies, Waynesburg University

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**About Leadership Pittsburgh Inc.**

Leadership Pittsburgh Inc. (LPI), an independent 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization, recognized as the premier resource for community leadership in Southwestern Pennsylvania. LPI has an alumni network of more than 2,000 influential civic leaders working to maximize the potential of our community. Modeled

after existing programs around the country, the Leadership Pittsburgh (LP) program was conceived by community leaders, affiliated with the Pittsburgh Chamber of Commerce, to enhance the quality of regional leadership through programming focused on awareness of community issues. Visit [www.lpinc.org](http://www.lpinc.org) or call 412.392.4505 for more information.

#### **About Best of the Batch Foundation**

Founded in 1999 by former Steelers Quarterback Charlie Batch, Best of the Batch Foundation provides Western Pennsylvanian school-aged youth with programs focused on education, health & wellness, and outreach services. Best of the Batch Foundation is currently in the midst of a 33,000 square foot expansion into a state-of-the-art educational facility- a highlight of that space being a cutting-edge STEAM Lab fully equipped with 3D printing stations, a robotics workshop, an audio recording studio, and an interactive green room outfit for film production. For more information, please visit [www.batchfoundation.org](http://www.batchfoundation.org).

#### **About Carnegie Science Center**

Carnegie Science Center is dedicated to inspiring learning and curiosity by connecting science and technology with everyday life. By making science both relevant and fun, the Science Center's goal is to increase science literacy in the region and motivate young people to seek careers in science and technology. One of the four Carnegie Museums of Pittsburgh, the Science Center is Pittsburgh's premier science exploration destination, reaching more than 700,000 people annually through its hands-on exhibits, camps, classes, and off-site education programs.