



Dear Friends and Colleagues,

While New York City is home to some of the largest and most successful companies in the world, too many New Yorkers have been on the outside looking in. Leaders from business, government, education, and nonprofits across the city recognize a long-overdue need to remove barriers to access for traditionally underserved New Yorkers. And now with COVID-19 amplifying long-standing economic and racial disparities in the city, the urgency of this moment cannot be understated. We must break down silos and work together towards the common cause of expanding economic opportunity for all New Yorkers.

As a lifelong educator and community college graduate, I'm proud to be the Executive Director of the New York Jobs CEO Council – a results-oriented coalition that will focus on connecting New Yorkers from diverse and low-income communities, including Black, Latinx, and Asian Americans with good, well-paying jobs. Led by the CEOs of some of New York's largest employers, the Jobs Council aims to hire 100,000 underserved New York residents by 2030, including hiring and offering apprenticeships to 25,000 CUNY students. This marks the first time we have ever seen these institutions come together in this way to build a brighter future for our city.

Through our collaborative efforts, the Jobs Council will strengthen the alignment between academia and the demands of the labor market, using its collective resources, capital, and network to ensure that young people are able to acquire in-demand skills of the 21<sup>st</sup> Century and gain access to employers as part of their education. By partnering with CUNY, the largest urban public university in the country, and CareerWise, an organization that helps high school students get into apprenticeships, we will forge a pipeline of local talent that is equipped to seize the jobs of today, tomorrow, and beyond.

This initiative is about more than just doing right by our local communities – it's good for businesses, too. Companies are stronger when they hire from their local community and we're hoping that other major businesses within the New York Area will join us in our efforts. So far, we have recruited 28 of the largest companies in the area and this is only the beginning.

As we continue to work towards creating sustainable career pathways for underserved communities, I hope that you will support us in our efforts. With your help, we'll ensure the next generation of talent can climb the economic ladder. And if we can make it happen here in New York, we can make it happen anywhere.

Sincerely,

Gail

Executive Director New York Jobs CEO Council