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NOVA Wins Google.Org Grant for Innovative Career Pipeline Initiative

Google.Org, Google's philanthropic organization, has awarded NOVAworks Foundation a \$250,000 grant to build dedicated pathways for low-income youth and young adults to careers in the heart of the Silicon Valley innovation economy. This big idea furthers Google.Org's vision of promoting greater economic accessibility and mobility.

The pathway initiative will provide up to 60 low-income individuals with the career navigation skills, networking support and technical tools to prepare them for higher education opportunities and, ultimately, careers in DevOps – a software-related discipline, digital advertising and other high-skill, in-demand industries.

“Through this grant, we are pleased to recognize NOVAworks' innovative spirit and deep desire to address fundamental economic challenges facing our communities,” **Adrian Schurr, Google.Org Bay Area Giving Manager**, said. “We're excited to see the results of NOVAworks' work in Sunnyvale and beyond.”

In this grant, the NOVAworks Foundation will leverage the resources and experiences of NOVA Workforce Development (www.novaworks.org), the federally funded nonprofit job training and career development agency based in Sunnyvale, CA. The other project partners are Hack the Hood (www.hackthehood.org), an Oakland nonprofit connecting low-income youth with technology careers, Virgil (www.virgilcareers.com), a New York-based virtual career assessment and navigation solution and the Economic Advancement Research Institute (EARI) (www.economicadvancement.org), a Massachusetts nonprofit promoting economic opportunity and income mobility.

“We are, of course, thankful for Google.Org's confidence in us and for the monetary support,” **NOVA director Kris Stadelman** said. “But we are equally grateful for the opportunity to work with a team of nationally-recognized social innovators and with Google employees, who will be volunteering their talents and innovative spirits to support this effort.”

This Google.Org grant will enable NOVA to scale and enhance existing initiatives addressing the needs of jobs seekers and students who are disconnected from the nation's economic mainstream. NOVA is currently leading a State of California regional SlingShot initiative that is working with industry leaders to create training programs at community colleges to prepare individuals for DevOps and digital advertising careers. NOVA, EARI and Virgil are also partnering with workforce leaders in Boston to create a “tech talent exchange” that will more efficiently connect students and job seekers from diverse populations with careers in Boston's booming tech economy.

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About NOVA Workforce Development:

NOVA is a grant-funded workforce development agency serving San Mateo County and northern Santa Clara County and is hosted by the City of Sunnyvale. Additional information on NOVA and its services is available at www.novaworks.org.

About Google.Org:

Focuses on [supporting innovative nonprofits](#) that address various issues across the globe.