

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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SAN DIEGO SELECTED TO RECEIVE ADDITIONAL GRANT FUNDING TO PUT YOUTH TO WORK THIS SUMMER

SAN DIEGO, CA, July 31, 2013 – The Brandeis Center for Youth and Communities recently received a \$2.5 million grant from the Walmart Foundation that will directly support summer programs that employ, educate, and support young people, as well as efforts to create a national dialogue on enhancing youth employability.

Locally, the Brandeis Center awarded funds to the San Diego Workforce Partnership (SDWP) to roll out the 2013 Summer Youth Employability Initiative training program for youth.

The 2013 Summer Youth Employability Initiative program establishes an approach to prepare our region's future workforce by providing meaningful, competency-based paid work experiences in the nonprofit and government sectors. By aligning the career aspirations and integrating work and learning for youth and young adults, ages 16-22 with organizations willing to provide the opportunity, together we can inspire and develop talent for San Diego's current and future workforce.

"We are thrilled about this opportunity to continue to serve young adults within the San Diego region. They will benefit from this generous grant by gaining new skills and 100 hours of paid work experience over the summer, which *WILL* make them more employable. Youth training and employment is critical to our region's current and future success," said Peter Callstrom, President & CEO of SDWP.

Professor Susan P. Curnan, Director of the Center for Youth and Communities and study leader for many summer youth initiatives, underscores the power of a competency-based approach to youth employability development: "We describe our approach to the summer program as '100% work, 100% learning.' Summers matter – over the long term, youth who participate in year-round programs or multiple summer experiences intentionally combining work, learning, and support can improve

educational outcomes, are less likely to drop out, have less difficulty getting and keeping jobs, and have higher lifelong earnings than those who do not.”

“At Walmart, we recognize the need to support the next generation of our nation’s workforce,” said Julie Gehrki, senior director of the Walmart Foundation. “By working closely with the Heller School’s Center for Youth and Communities at Brandeis University, we are able to help provide youth access to job opportunities and skills training during the summer months so they can return to school more prepared for the future.”

Local nonprofits or government agencies looking to hire an intern this summer? If so, please contact Liann Page, Employer Contact Specialist, to learn more LiannPage@workforce.org or 619.228.2942.

Philanthropy at Walmart

Walmart and the Walmart Foundation are committed to helping people live better through philanthropic efforts. By operating globally and giving back locally, Walmart is uniquely positioned to address the needs of the communities it serves and make a significant social impact within its core areas of giving: Hunger Relief and Healthy Eating, Sustainability, Career Opportunity and Women’s Economic Empowerment. www.foundation.walmart.com

San Diego Workforce Partnership funds job training programs that enable eligible adults to develop the skills and knowledge needed for emerging career opportunities within such fields as green jobs, healthcare, and clean technology. www.workforce.org/

The Heller School, Brandeis University

Within the Heller School’s mission of “knowledge advancing social justice,” the Center’s objective is to “make knowledge productive” and help practitioners and policy makers prepare young people for college, work and life. <http://cyc.brandeis.edu>

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