Cities Answer NLC's Call to Action to Support Entrepreneurship, STEM Education and Innovation in Communities across America

Today, the National League of Cities is announcing 50 cities, along with a number of universities and national organizations that have made specific and bold commitments to ensure their communities will thrive in the modern, innovation-driven economy. These cities are leading the nation with unique and effective local partnerships, transformational new initiatives, and significant resources directed at supporting young businesses, leveraging technology, and increasing STEM education and workforce training.

Ranging from rural townships, college towns, and major metros, cities have joined with over 200 local partners and leveraged over $100 million in regional and national resources to define and address local challenges. These cities will:

- Support new and expanded STEM initiatives that connect over 700,000 students and workers to careers in technology;

- Partner with startups to improve government services in 15 municipalities;

  Foster and resource promising local entrepreneurs in five cities to help them start and grow new businesses locally;

- Create and expand eight innovation districts—urban neighborhoods that bring together researchers, workers, and entrepreneurs—to ensure these areas benefit all;

- Serve as living laboratories to translate university research into actionable solutions in the areas of opioid overdoses, autonomous public transportation, cleaner electrical grids, and climate change;

- Establish and fund significant, new public-private-civic partnerships to advance the above priorities.

While many cities responded to NLC's Call for Commitments, the cities announced today stand apart as national leaders for both the cross-sector partnerships they have forged and the ambitious outcomes they are committing to achieve.

Local Action is Necessary to Build an Inclusive, Innovative American Economy
For too many Americans, the high-tech global economy is a source of anxiety, not optimism. The looming threat of factory closures and uncertainty around the pace of technological change has created a sense of insecurity among millions of workers. For many local and national policy makers, the threat of technological displacement is a clarion call to fight technological change, by underinvesting in entrepreneurship and innovation, in the hope that slowing the pace of technology will keep jobs and communities intact and safe from the forces of globalization. But this is exactly the opposite of what American cities need. In fact, the U.S. economy as a whole, is extraordinarily well-positioned to lead in

new technologies that are shaping our world—from life-saving drugs to safer cities—and driving international markets that can bring resources into cash-strapped communities.

The real problem is too few cities and towns are currently participating in the global economy. Just as the ability for any place to reach billions of consumers becomes more realistic, access to venture capital, high skilled workers, and entrepreneurial mentors has become even more geographically concentrated on the coasts. Over 80 percent of venture capital still goes to just five metropolitan areas and 75 percent of high schools offer no computer science courses. The radical inequality of these resources is readily identifiable in national entrepreneurship figures: currently the annual rate of new business creation is almost half what it was a generation ago, in 1980.

Place-based inequality—the notion that entire regions, not just individuals within them, are falling further behind—is a clear and present danger to our economy and republic. According to University of Austin's James Galbraith, out of the over 2,000 counties in the country, just 15 high-growth counties accounted for virtually all of the increase in U.S. inequality within the 2000s. And yet, the majority of federal and philanthropic investment into science, entrepreneurship, and workforce development are agnostic to place. Instead, these investments should consider cities not just municipalities, but also organizing platforms to rally public, private, university, and civic resources to improve the competitiveness of the American people.

The National League of Cities' Innovation Ecosystem program takes a place-based approach to U.S. innovation and prosperity and seeks to encourage and support local leaders to join together to identify and commit to bolstering local strengths and solving critical challenges.

Commitments are organized into four categories: **entrepreneurship**; **localizing the benefits of research and development**; **STEM education and workforce development**; **innovation-based economic development**.

Commitment Making Cities

Akron, Ohio	Grand Rapids, MI	Peoria, Ill.
Ames, Iowa	Greenville, S.C.	Pittsburgh, Pa.
Austin, Texas	Groton, Conn.	Portland, Ore.
Baltimore, Md.	Groton City, Conn.	Providence, R.I.
Boulder, Colo.	Hartford, Conn.	Roanoke, Va.
Buffalo, N.Y.	Hays, Kan.	Sacramento, Calif.
Charleston, S.C.	Henderson, N.Y.	San Antonio, Texas
Charlotte, N.C.	Kansas City (Kan. & Mo.)	San Diego, Calif.
Chattanooga, Tenn.	Las Vegas, Nev.	Syracuse, N.Y.
College Park, Md.	Long Beach, Calif.	Tampa, Fla.
Corpus Christi, Texas	Mobile, Ala.	Tempe, Ariz.
Denver, Colo.	Manhattan, Kan.	Waco, Texas
Erie, Pa.	Norfolk, Va.	Walnut Creek, Calif.
Fort Collins, Colo.	New Haven, Conn.	Washington, D.C.
Fremont, Calif.	New London, Conn.	West Palm Beach, Fla.
Glendale, Calif.	Oklahoma City, Okla.	West Sacramento, Calif.

Other Commitment Makers to Local Activity
Citizen Schools
Johnson C. Smith University
Marketplace.city
Portland State University
The U.S. Patent and Trademark Office
Trinity University

Commitments to improving the climate of local entrepreneurship

High growth startups are a cornerstone to local economic prosperity. These young firms constitute the majority of new jobs created and wealth generated as they scale up. According to research by MIT economist Scott Stern, 75 percent of employment generated by startups can be attributed to just 5 percent of entrepreneurs. Cities are improving the likelihood that their homegrown companies will be successful by forming entrepreneurial commitments in partnership with their local network of startup-supporting organizations—ranging from accelerators, incubators, venture capitalists, non-profits, maker spaces, and research institutions.

Commitments focused around improving the climate of entrepreneurship are:

Akron will support 25 high growth, local startups
The City of Akron, Summit County, and the Greater Akron Chamber of Commerce will engage partners in establishing a connected innovation and entrepreneurial ecosystem by building a portfolio of up to 25 emerging, innovative firms, connecting those firms to support organizations, and launching a storytelling campaign to support a culture of entrepreneurship in the region.

Buffalo will provide free space and mentorship to 10 high potential minority or women owned start-ups
The Buffalo Niagara Medical Center, in partnership with Launch NY and the Beverly Gray Business Exchange Center, commits to expand our existing business development efforts to create a new incubator at the Innovation Center that provides free or reduced-rate space, business development services, mentoring, seed funding, and networking to 10 high potential minority or women owned start-ups and businesses by the end of 2019.

*Fourteen cities will work with **City Innovate** to establish or expand Startup in Resident programs*
With City Innovate, 14 cities commit creating significant and new partnerships between local government and startups. Throughout 2019, these cities will establish or expand their Startup in Resident program to identify and attract civic entrepreneurs to address critical issues facing local government. Commitment making cities include: ***Boulder (CO), Fremont (CA), Glendale (CA), Henderson (NV), Las Vegas (NV), Long Beach (CA), Mobile (AL), Norfolk (VA), Peoria (IL), Sacramento (CA), San Diego (NY), Syracuse (NY), Walnut Creek (CA), West Sacramento (CA).***

Portland State University *will grow the number of college inventors by expanding the InventOR competition to 350 students*
Portland State University in partnership with The Lemelson Foundation and Business Oregon is committed to increase the number of College inventors in Oregon while collaborating with other institutions of higher education in the state. In the 2019 competition cycle, InventOR anticipates serving 119 teams—representing over 350 Oregon college students—across the state.

San Antonio *will improve the climate of entrepreneurship by partnering with local startups to solve municipal challenges and supporting the continuum of tech talent from middle school through emerging entrepreneurs*
The City of San Antonio, in partnership with Geekdom, commits to 1) improving the City organization's capacity for innovation by working with outside local talent to address City challenges with customized tech solutions; and 2) to grow the ecosystem that fuels tech startup growth by targeting four levels of tech talent to increase the local supply of tech startups: 6-12 STEM students; Higher Education STEM students; Emerging entrepreneurs and Tech startups.

Trinity University *is expanding Students+Startups to bring students from across the country to San Antonio for an internship in a local startup*
Trinity University commits to expanding the Students+Startups program that connects Trinity students with local startups through a paid summer long internship into a national program to attract college students from around the country to come to San Antonio and work with a local startup.

The United States Patent and Trademark Office *will bring entrepreneurship and intellectual property training to students, inventors, and new businesses across the country*
The United States Patent and Trademark Office, in partnership with the National Inventors Hall of Fame (NIHF), in 2019, will increase the number of students, school districts, and teachers impacted by our Camp Invention program, the Collegiate Inventors Competition, and STEM professional development training opportunities for educators. There will be a special emphasis placed on including students from underrepresented groups, including girls and students of color. In 2019, the USPTO will also increase the number of on-the-ground programs designed to assist small business owners, startups, entrepreneurs, and independent inventors in securing and protecting their intellectual property (IP) rights and ultimately bringing their products and services to the marketplace. The Agency will specifically expand to new cities its *China IP Roadshow,* which includes a series of informational seminars on how to protect IP when conducting business in China.

Waco *will analyze and better understand the needs of local startup and develop a regional roadmap for coordinated action*
Start Up Waco, an Entrepreneurial Ecosystem development organization, in partnership with Baylor University and the City of Waco, commits to building a new public, civic, university "lab-to-market" partnership to translate Baylor research into local startup activity. Within the next year the partnership will develop a gap analysis to target areas of need within the startup ecosystem and a regional "roadmap" that identifies specific activities each of the partners will pursue.

__West Palm Beach__ will attract and support 12 new business in the heart of downtown West Palm Beach
The City of West Palm Beach, West Palm Beach Community Redevelopment Agency, West Palm Beach Downtown Development Authority, SCORE of Palm Beach, Trifecta Clematis and the Knight Foundation commit to the 12x12 Partnership, which will bring together and support 12 new, small businesses in the heart of downtown West Palm Beach. The partnership will use the success of the 12 businesses to test and track the effectiveness of local support, specific tactics, and identify future areas where the 12x12 partnership can be replicated.

Commitments to localizing the benefits of Research and Development

The roughly $160 billion the federal government invests in research and development doesn't occur in isolation, but in thousands of research institutions—federal laboratories, universities, academic hospitals, and non-profit research centers—in cities and towns across the country. Not only do these institutions push the frontiers of science, they are anchors of local economic growth and offer inventions and ideas to improve the quality of life for nearby citizens. However, for research to "come to ground" strong partnerships are needed between municipal leaders and anchor institutions.

Commitments to localizing the benefits of R&D include:

__Ames__ will connect university health research to community care and workforce development
The City of Ames, Iowa State University, the Des Moines Community College and other civic and private sector partners are committed to pursuing a new public-private-civic-university partnership to leverage the city's significant capacity in academic health research to improve community health and access to jobs for workers at all levels. Should the necessary funding be secured in 2019, the partnership will develop joint curriculum and community outreach efforts in the areas of nursing, kinesiology, nutrition, dietetics, gerontology, food science, and culinary arts as well as the planning phase of a 128,000 sq ft Healthy Life Center.

__Austin's__ public, private, and civic leaders are launching and resourcing the city's Innovation District
Capital City Innovation, the City of Austin, Central Health, the Dell Medical School at the University of Texas at Austin, Downtown Austin Alliance, Opportunity Austin, Seton Ascension Health, Travis County, the Office of State Senator Kirk Watson and their various partners commit to a public-private-civic partnership to launch Austin's Innovation District based on a sustainable, inclusive, coalition model. In 2019, the partnership will adopt a charter, complete an evaluation of industry cluster development, initiate a community benefit program strategy, initiate an infrastructure plan, begin physical preparations on a 14-acre site, and break ground on its first development.

__Chattanooga__ is attracting and supporting community-focused academic research
The City of Chattanooga, in partnership with CO.LAB, The Enterprise Center, the Electric Power Board (EPB), Erlanger Health System, Hamilton County, and the University of Tennessee at Chattanooga (UTC) commit to a new strategy to grow and attract community-relevant academic research by forming the Chattanooga Smart Community Collaborative (CSCC). This partnership will expand advanced research within fiber optic networks and energy grids, translate that research to projects in the city, and support the establishment of a Health & Wellness Innovation District and is announcing a new healthcare-focused accelerator with Erlanger Health System.

__Fort Collins__ is launching a novel public-private partnership to "find, finance and fix" thousands of energy inefficient rental properties and homes in Fort Collins and across the state of Colorado

Fort Collins new *EPIC Program* provides an "easy button" solution to make rental properties and single-family homes more energy efficient AND healthy, in collaboration with Bloomberg Philanthropies, the Colorado Energy Office (CEO), Colorado State University, local efficiency contractors, banks, property owners, tenants and landlords. EPIC streamlines every step of the process, from energy assessment to on-bill financing and project completion, while documenting indoor air quality improvements which drive health and well-being for residents. CEO has committed to expanding the program in Fort Collins and to four other communities across the state.

__Greenville__ is piloting autonomous, electric "A-Taxi shuttles" to improve public mobility
Greenville County and City, partnering with Clemson University's International Center for Automotive Research (CU-ICAR) and the Carolinas Alliance 4 Innovation (CA4I) consortium, commit to serving as a mobility testbed in three distinct districts. Specifically, the partnership will deploy autonomous, electric "A-Taxi shuttles" as well as 5G-enabled technologies to enhance mobility options for all citizens, with an emphasis on those with physical and socio-economic challenges.

__Tempe__ and __Arizona State University__ will use wastewater data to deploy public health services
The City of Tempe, in partnership with Arizona State University, commits to improving community health and reducing opioid-related deaths by analyzing wastewater data to help assess opioid use in Tempe to inform deployment of future resources and services. The data-focused mapping of opioid calls in the area will inform the City's strategies for Fire, Medical, and Human Services operations to better address community needs.

Commitments to a more inclusive STEM workforce
In order for the high-tech economy to support broad-based prosperity, all workers need the skills to participate, including children and youth who will be the workforce of tomorrow. Partnership commitments between the city and leaders in workforce development, education, afterschool and summer programs, and the private and civic sectors can ensure economic gains from technology are shared both today and with future generations. Building a pipeline of well-trained, skilled young people in the STEM fields can provide cities with the workforce to create, utilize, and support innovative growth.

Commitments to STEM education and workforce development for all are:

__Baltimore__ is transforming community recreation centers into maker and technology training centers
The City of Baltimore commits to creating more opportunities for maker and computer science education, training, and programs through a Rec-to-Tech Initiative in the City's Recreation Centers. The process will begin with community design sessions at four recreation centers in partnership with the Digital Harbor Foundation to create a feasibility study and implementation plan to review for further expansion.

Charleston *is expanding Science, Technology, Engineering, Art, and Math (STEAM) training to 10,000 students*
The City of Charleston, in partnership with the Charleston County School District, Engaging Creative Minds (ECM), and local industry through STEM Premier, commit to expanding STEAM work-based learning programs—beginning with 1,800 students in the Liberty Hill region attending North Charleston Elementary, Morningside Middle and North Charleston High School and expanding to 10,000 K-12 students throughout the district by 2022. The partners will also expand ECM's Engaged Learning Experiences from 5,494 K-12 students in the 2018-2019 school year to 10,988 in the 2020-2021 school year, and expand ECM's Summer STEAM Institute from serving 480 unique K-8th students in the summer of 2018 to 960 unique K-8th students in the summer of 2019.

Charlotte *is expanding career opportunities in tech for minority and women youth*
The City of Charlotte in partnership with BLKTECHCLT commit to expanding the city's TechCharlotte by 600 percent to include 150 youth from Charlotte-Mecklenburg high schools by 2021. The program connects students to career opportunities in the technology sector through training, leadership development, and unique internship program that includes 60 hours of mobile app development, one-on-one mentorship and coaching, onsite experience at local technology companies and access to Charlotte's larger business tech community.

Citizen Schools *and over 20 cities are creating and supporting maker spaces across the country*
Citizen Schools, in collaboration with Arconic Foundation, Digital Promise, Maker Ed, Nation of Makers, Reimagine America's Schools and Schmidt Futures is launching the [Make For All](#) initiative, aimed at enabling all students across the U.S. to engage in maker centered learning. Make For All is a national call to action for mayors, K-12 schools, colleges, companies, foundations, libraries, museums, makerspaces and non-profit organizations to make new and expanded commitments which enable students and adults to engage in the Maker Movement in ways that support real-world learning at the intersection of STEM, design and the arts, entrepreneurship and invention and the future of work. More than 20 communities from Buffalo, NY and Boise, ID to Socorro, NM are already taking steps to support these efforts.

Corpus Christi *will prepare 200 high school students for six high demand, STEM careers*
The City of Corpus Christi, partnering with Citizens for Educational Excellence, Education to Employment Partners, United Corpus Christi Chamber of Commerce, Workforce Solutions of the Coastal Bend, and Corpus Christi Independent School District, commit to a new Learning While Earning Program to prepare and connect 200 high school students to six high-demand regional STEM career pathways by 2021.

Denver *is expanding and making permanent the Next Generation City Builders pilot to create the workforce needed for a physically growing city*
The City and County of Denver, with 10-15 public and private partners, commit to expanding and making permanent the Next Generation City Builders pilot program. The program deeply engages youth in STEM-based learning opportunities as a strategic effort to address Denver's workforce shortage associated with growing investments in physical infrastructure.

Erie will connect public Wi-Fi in low-income opportunity zones, and creating new IT and Cybersecurity training programs
To reduce the more than 38 percent of Erie children living below the poverty line, The City of Erie, in partnership with the Erie Innovation District, regional universities, and Erie's Public School District, commit in 2019 to create and provide a new IT and Cyber workforce education training curriculum throughout the city, specifically within low income neighborhoods. By 2020, the partnership will also expand a public access Wi-Fi system in the city's poorest opportunity zones to bridge the digital divide.

Grand Rapids will double the number of middle school students interested in STEM careers
The City of Grand Rapids, with Heart of West Michigan United Way and the Expanded Learning Opportunities Network's 50+ organizations, commits to doubling the number of middle school students who are interested in STEM careers—as identified by a comprehensive annual pre/post survey of each student. The initiative will serve over 700 youth in afterschool programs to improve their interest in STEM through field trips and partnerships with companies and STEM-related municipal jobs.

Hays is connecting bilingual services to STEM career support and expanding the program from 25 to 500 participants
Fort Hays State University's Science and Mathematics Education Institute and United School District 489's Migrant Education Program in partnership with the City of Hays and a host of civic partners commit to advancing the STEM and maker-centered learning of the city's migrant families by connecting bilingual services with STEM career pathway opportunities and expanding to the general population in 2019 growing from 25 to 500 participants.

Over five years, Kansas City with 200 local businesses will create 100,000 STEM workforce "experiences" for youth in the region
The Kansas City region, including the cities of Kansas City, Missouri and Kansas City, Kansas, in partnership with KC Social Innovation Center, KC STEM Alliance and its STEM Learning Ecosystem, including the region's workforce boards, K-12 schools, higher education, youth-serving organizations and over 200 local employers, commit to creating 100,000 new workforce "experiences"—including internships, career pathway mentorships, and workplace learning—by 2023.

Las Vegas will grow before and after school STEM programing from 360 to 8,500 students
The City of Las Vegas, in partnership with MGM Resorts International, the Clark County School District and other community partners commit to providing new STEM resources and materials to 360 students participating in Safekey, a city-facilitated before and after school program located at ReInvent Schools, beginning in 2019. With the success of the 2019 cohort, the City intends to expand STEM programming to all 8,500 students who attend Safekey in the city of Las Vegas.

New Haven will double the number of professional software coders by 2022
Elm City Innovation Collaborative, the City of New Haven, the Economic Development Corporation of Greater New Haven, and CTNext are announcing a new joint effort to make New Haven "the City that Codes", through promotion, curriculum, and exciting new programs to double the annual number of new professional-level software talent trained in New Haven by 2022. The effort has three pillars: Inclusive recruitment to engage those in the community currently detached from the tech sector; skill development through informal clubs, short academies and other stepping stones to skills; and, professional-level training at a new satellite location of Silicon Valley's Holberton School.

Pittsburgh *will create a "Rec2Tech" program in all ten municipal recreation centers*
The City of Pittsburgh and InnovatePGH commit to expanding access to computer science and on-the-job technical training for all Pittsburghers through a new "Rec2Tech" program that provides resources to enable the city's ten municipal recreation centers to provide kids access to technology and mentors to learn job-ready skills for the innovation economy.

*By 2025, every student—600,000—in the **Tampa Bay** region will receive digital creativity, invention and entrepreneurship training*
The City of Tampa in partnership with 13 university, civic, and private sector partners commit to the "Future Innovators of Tampa Bay," a new 6-year initiative that seeks to provide the opportunity for every one of the Tampa Bay Region's 600,000 K-12students to be trained in digital creativity, engineering, invention and entrepreneurship skills by 2025 and beyond.

Commitments to making local economies more competitive

The ability for local businesses and workers to compete internationally—and therefore attract global customers and foreign direct investment—is the leading indicator of the health and prosperity of a city. Without resources flowing in, no city can sustain the investments necessary for schools, homelessness prevention, drug rehab programs, and all other local services. By connecting and harnessing universities, startups, and other innovators as economic development engines, local leaders are creating the necessary condition for their community's future prosperity.

Commitments to innovation-based economic development include:

College Park *will leverage its proximity to university research to attract new tech firms*
The City of College Park, in partnership with the University of Maryland and the Terrapin Development Company, commits to a coordinated, research-based, business attraction strategy to attract or expand the operations of three businesses located in within the city's RISE Zone—a state designated area near a research university— and HUB Zones—historically underutilized business zones— by the end of Fiscal Year 2019.

Hartford *and industry partners will support, track, and increase the number of successful InsureTech startups*
Hartford's insurance industry, led by Travelers, The Hartford, Cigna, and LIMRA, together with the City of Hartford, and StartupBootcamp, commit to growing their emerging "InsurTech" ecosystem. Their goals are to continue attracting new companies and talent, create jobs, and increase economic growth in the city and among partner firms. Specifically, throughout 2019, Hartford will track increases in: the number of InsurTech startups; the amount of corporate engagement and support; the number of InsurTech events, and the amount of talent, including professionals and students involved in startup growth or innovation initiatives within the insurance industry.

Marketplace.city *will help commitment making cities track, document, and celebrate their success*
Marketplace.city will provide a free and publicly available platform for NLC Innovation Ecosystem Cities to document their Commitments, report their ongoing actions against their commitments, and to share best practices with other cities.

In five years, **Oklahoma City** *intends to double the percentage of employees the Innovation District who live in disadvantaged neighborhoods immediately surrounding the boundaries of the district.*
The Alliance for Economic Development, the Oklahoma City Innovation District and Metro Technology Centers commit to training and identifying work opportunities for those living in disadvantaged neighborhoods immediately surrounding the Innovation District. In 5 years, they intend to double the percentage, from 5% to 10% of employees in the Innovation District who live in the neighborhoods immediately surrounding the boundaries of the District. They will launch a targeted workforce development program focusing on the STEM employment opportunities currently open in the district and actively recruit residents of nearby neighborhoods experiencing serious rates of unemployment and underemployment.

Providence *is announcing a new public-private-university partnership, the Urban Innovation Partnership to resource and grow two local innovation districts*
The City of Providence, in partnership with eight higher education institutions and two hospital systems located in the City boundaries, are announcing a new public-private-university partnership, the Urban Innovation Partnership to collectively govern, invest, and develop a long-term vision for two Innovation Districts within Providence. Working with the Venture Café Foundation, the Urban Innovation Partnership will develop a strategic plan and secure funding to support a five-year plan for collaborative investment in the City.

Roanoke *will create, support, and market a new 'innovation corridor' to serve as the regional center for research and technology-based startups*
The City of Roanoke in partnership with Carilion Clinic, Virginia Tech Carilion Research Institute, Valleys Innovation Council, and others commit to a coordinated marketing and investment strategy to support the proposed Innovation Corridor in downtown Roanoke, Virginia. This work will leverage prior investments in the area around health sciences to create an organized innovation district that supports research commercialization and entrepreneurship and will lead to improved access to capital for early-stage companies.

The Thames River region *will merge traditional economic development and business attraction with startup development through the creation of a new Maritime Entrepreneurship Center*
Thames River Innovation Places, Inc. in partnership with the Town of Groton, the city of New London and Groton City commit to creating the Maritime Entrepreneurial Center & Accelerator, the country's first incubator tailored to the Maritime industry. The MECA will blend traditional economic development efforts of Southeastern Connecticut's most competitive industry - Maritime - with startup support services.

The Federal City Council *and a joint public-private partnership will identify and support the development of an Innovation District in* **Washington D.C.**
The Federal City Council (FC2) commits to diversifying Washington, DC's economic base, driving economic growth, and generating education and employment opportunities for District residents with the establishment of an innovation district. Specifically, in 2019, working with the District's residents and business community and the National League of Cities, FC2 will identify target neighborhoods for Innovation District based on existing asset mapping and form a public-private-civic partnership to rally mixed resources for its development.

Looking Forward

It's no hyperbole to claim that if successful, the work of the cities, universities, and organizations called out in this factsheet will position dozens of American communities on a trajectory to not simply survive the innovation-driven, global economy, but thrive in it. Hundreds of thousands of students and workers will have new skills to adapt to changing technology; startups outside the coasts will have the tools they need to grow and become employment generators; and the science discovered in once siloed research institutions will become a competitive enabler for dozens of regional economies.

Of course, time will tell how far these cities will go, but we believe when public, private, and civic leaders come together and step up to announce what they want to accomplish, great things happen. NLC is honored to work with such a fantastic group of cities and we look forward to helping these commitment makers succeed.