Annual Report: Workforce Training Program

As part of the initial design and development phase of this commitment, Columbia University (CU), at the request of the West Harlem Development Corporation (WHDC), conducted various focus groups to determine the best way to develop and implement an “industry response” (skills-based) education and workforce development training platform.

A report was provided to the WHDC reviewing details from the focus groups and providing recommendations for next steps. The WHDC has recently used this data in the development of its own job skills training center and to issue a workforce and economic development RFP. Since this activity could impact the type of curriculum to be developed by the University, Columbia has been in consultation with the WHDC.

As a result, CU has determined to issue an RFP to provide a grant(s) to identify a qualified not-for-profit(s) to design, develop and implement a program consistent with other local efforts. It is anticipated that the total amount of the initial grant(s) would be for a two year pilot period. CU has been working with the WHDC to inform the RFP draft which is now being reviewed by the Office of General Counsel. We anticipate that our RFP will be issued by Fall 2017.