



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

September 17, 2022

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The South Dallas Employment Project Partners with City of Dallas and 130+ Partner Organizations to Open the First of Many Service Centers Across Dallas

A Press Conference with Michael Hinojosa, City of Dallas Police Dept. Officials, Dallas College Officials and SDEP Officers will be held at Pacifica Apartments on Monday, September 19

Dallas, TX: A Press Conference will be held on Monday, September 19 at 10:00 AM announcing the first SDEP Service Center location at Pacifica Apartments. Michael Hinojosa, former DISD Superintendent and current Chair of the SDEP Legislative Committee, will be joined by City Council Member Casey Thomas, Associate Vice Chancellor Gloria Smith of Dallas College, Dallas Police Department officials and SDEP Officers to announce the opening of the first of many services centers across Dallas neighborhoods.

Over 130 organizations have partnered with the recently launched South Dallas Employment Project (SDEP), including the City of Dallas and Dallas College, Dallas ISD, UNT Dallas, the Region 10 Educational Service Center, and the North Central Texas Regional Council of Governments to provide a variety of high demand services for opportunity populations living in South and Southern Dallas.

The South Dallas Employment Project is expanding its model by establishing SDEP Service Centers within apartment complexes throughout south Dallas. These centers will enable the SDEP and our 130+ partners to provide direct services within the apartment complexes to apartment residences, as well as individuals and families living within close proximity to the apartment complex.

PRESS CONFERENCE AGENDA

When: **Monday, September 19 at 10:00 AM**

Where: **Pacifica Apartments, 7676 S Westmoreland Rd, Dallas, TX 75237**

Remarks from:

- **Wes Jurey**, SDEP Managing Partner & Co-Founder
- **Brian Genden**, Director, Asset Management, Polaris Real Estate Partners
- **Dr. Froswa' Booker-Drew**, CEO, Soulstice Consulting
Chair, SDEP Advisory Council & Co-Founder
- **Annette Underwood**, Chief Diversity Officer, Vistra Corporation
Chair, SDEP Employer Advisory Council
- **Michael Hinojosa**, Superintendent, DISD (Retired)
Chair, SDEP Legislative Committee
- **Casey Thomas**, Dallas City Council Member
- **Dallas Police Department**

Media interviews and photo opps welcome

WHAT IS AN SDEP SERVICE CENTER

In every service center, families and individuals can receive assistance to (1) procure a drivers license, Social Security card, and/or birth certificate; (2) schedule telemedicine, telehealth, and Tele court

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appearances; (3) receive training, leading to industry recognized certificates and certifications from Dallas Community College; (4) through the Metrix Learning System, utilized by the Texas Workforce Commission, sign up for unemployment benefits and employment assistance from their local workforce board, and access more than 6,000 training modules, that include digital literacy assistance; (5) enroll in RITEI, a virtual learning platform that provides virtual mentored assistance to achieve Google Certificates and CompTIA A+ Certifications; and (6) child care, after 3pm.

In addition, individuals and families can receive referrals to any of the SDEP's 130+ organizational partners, who provide assistance with (1) training and employment, (2) housing, (3) transportation, (4) health wellness & recovery services, (5) community connectivity, (6) digital & financial literacy training, and (7) legal assistance.

Wes Jurey, Managing Partner, established SDEP in Partnership with the State Fair of Texas, supported by the City of Dallas to help expand resources in support of south Dallas residents "based on my personal commitment to work to resolve the challenges faced by those living in South Dallas." Mr. Jurey adds, "During my tenure as Chairman of the Texas Workforce Investment Council, I became aware of the challenges faced by employers to meet the unmet demand for skilled workers, as well as the challenges 'Opportunity Populations' face in obtaining the training and support necessary to secure a living wage job and the many resources needed to lead to a sustainable future."

Dr. Froswa' Booker Drew, Advisory Council Chair, states, "The South Dallas Employment Project started during my tenure at the State Fair of Texas and is an amazing partnership with Wes Jurey and his team. Because of my experiences with friends who had been incarcerated, it was important to co-create a vehicle that could bring companies, organizations and government together to support those who are often marginalized. It is holistic in its approach by providing wrap-around services, employment, training, and advocacy."

HOW ARE SDEP SERVICE CENTERS MANAGED

The Centers are operated under agreements between the SDEP and the apartment owners. They are managed by one of the SDEP partners, under an agreement between the SDEP partner and the SDEP. Each Center operates much like a franchise, ensuring that the same services are provided at all locations throughout South Dallas.

About SDEP:

The South Dallas Employment Project (SDEP) was established in February 2020 by Redemption Bridge, a 501(c)(3) nonprofit intermediary, in partnership with the State Fair Of Texas, supported by the City of Dallas. Our overarching objective is the development of a sustainable, scalable, replicable model to support opportunity populations living in or returning to Dallas, primarily focused on five identified contiguous ZIP Codes in south and southern Dallas. Our primary objective is to assist individuals to obtain the skills, competencies, knowledge and capabilities necessary to lead sustainable lives. We have accelerated our work, given the challenges posed by both COVID-19, and the issue of justice and racial equity.

About Redemption Bridge:

Redemption Bridge is a 501 (c) (3) nonprofit intermediary, governed by a board of directors, primarily comprised of business, educational, and civic leaders, led by Wes Jurey, Immediate Past Chairman of the Texas Workforce Investment Council. The primary focus of Redemption Bridge is to develop formal, long term collaborative models that change the way our organizational stakeholders do business, thereby improving their efforts to serve the three populations designated in the current 8-year strategic plan for the Texas workforce system. We expect our models to prove successful in reintegrating Veterans, justice involved Youth, and justice involved Adults into family, community, and society, with the life skills to be successful, thereby reducing recidivism while assisting the workforce needs of employers in Texas.

For more information:

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