

Presentation to Houston Community College Board of Trustees, 8/21/14
By Carolyn Watson, VP, Corporate Responsibility, JPMorgan Chase

We all understand that the world's economic map is shifting to become a more competitive place. And we are convinced Houston is incredibly well positioned to succeed in this new global economy.

One big challenge holds us back from realizing our full potential: our region doesn't produce enough skilled workers for the jobs that are readily available. And although there is a shortage of skilled workers, too many Houstonians are unable to secure a career that will provide a livable wage for their families.

We have a fundamental responsibility to find a solution that will bridge this gap. We must ensure that we're making the investments needed for the future of our region and for our workers.

Today, we are here to celebrate a \$100,000 investment in that brighter future.

This grant from CHASE is to expand the work of Capital IDEA to serve students at the Houston Community College's Northeast Campus, a campus renowned for its STEM and Energy Institute programs. Houston is the energy capital of the world and we want to make sure our signature industry is open to ALL Houstonians who want to pursue careers in these fields.

The Capital IDEA/HCC partnership works! It gives workers aspiring for a better future the training and practical supports they need to persist to graduation. Graduates will have starting wages of at least \$17/hour.

Most importantly, this partnership signals a message to individuals with limited educations: it is not too late. There IS an on-ramp to furthering your education. There IS a place for you in our economy.

Chase is pleased to support this partnership between Capital IDEA and Houston Community College in expanding its talent pipeline to serve our fastest growing industries. It's a win for the College's aspiring and hard-working students, a win for local companies, and a win for Houston's economy.