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PRESS RELEASE

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**** * PRESS RELEASE * ****

THE OFFICE OF AUDIT AND CONTROL LAUNCHES NEW YOUTH PROGRAM *READY. SET. GOAL!*

Albany, NY - The Office of Audit and Control is thrilled to announce [*Ready. Set. Goal!*](#), a new youth program. *Ready. Set. Goal!* will host its first cohort Monday, August 16, 2021 through Friday, August 20, 2021. The goal of this program is to link youth in the City of Albany to economic opportunities and in turn build a pipeline of highly qualified young talent that will shape our community's economic future. Cooperative economics and personal and professional goal setting serve as the foundation of this program. *Ready.Set.Goal!* incorporates workshops, field experiences, and networking opportunities with local business leaders to foster an environment that encourages career exploration, critical thinking, and skills building. Examples of featured topics include, college preparation, professional etiquette, money management, career readiness, and entrepreneurship.

In order to be eligible, applicants must be entering the 8th or 9th grade at the start of the 2021-2022 Academic Year and a City of Albany resident.

To apply for the program, prospective applicants can visit:
<https://form.jotform.com/211674060275149>

2021 *Ready. Set. Goal!* is made possible by a host of community partners. Sponsors include by Albany Housing Authority, Dawn Abbuhl, President of Repeat Business Systems, Inc., University at Albany Associate Professor Dr. Lani Jones, Mr. and Mrs. Dwight Williams and Price Chopper & Market 32.

Chief City Auditor Dr. Dorcey Applrys said “Thank you to our community partners for making *Ready. Set. Goal!* possible. This program will ensure that young people gain meaningful economic opportunities which is essential to reducing poverty, develop future leaders and secure, stable community. This program will improve future employment outcomes, particularly for disadvantaged youth who would otherwise have low summer employment rates and improve educational outcomes. We look forward to collaborating with the community partners in few months ahead for a success program.”

Albany Housing Authority, Executive Director Chiquita D'Arbeau said “Albany Housing Authority is proud to support *Ready. Set. Goal!* and looks forward to working with the talented students who will participate in this initiative. It is extremely important to connect our youth with economic opportunities and to help develop them into community leaders. Congratulations to the Office and Audit and Control for launching this exciting program.”

Repeat Business Systems, Inc., President Dawn Abbuhl, PhD said “The mission of *Ready. Set. Goal!* immediately grabbed my attention as I have always been committed to supporting young talent and truly appreciate the direct reach that this program will have. The process of including real field experiences coupled with workshops for relevant skill development being offered, and then providing opportunities for the students to practice these skills while networking is the perfect way to make a lasting impression and a great foundation. We are very excited to be part of it!”

New Birth Christian Fellowship Center, Dr. Paul Parsons Sr., Pastor said "Investing in our youth today is investing in the future of our communities, city, and country. *Ready. Set. Goal!* is an amazing first step in developing our youth locally for a global impact and we I am glad to be a part of this initiative!

For any questions, additional information, or if you would like to be a community sponsor, contact Michele Andre, Auditor at Mandre@albanyny.gov or 518-434-5023.

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