

**NOTE:** *These press releases are from June 2019 only.*

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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## **Louisville launches LouTechWorks**

*Initiative designed to radically scale city's tech talent pipeline*

**LOUISVILLE, KY (June 3, 2019)**— Mayor Greg Fischer today announced the launch of LouTechWorks, an initiative to boost Louisville's efforts to rapidly expand its tech talent pipeline in collaboration with education, nonprofit and employer partners.

"To compete – and win – in the economy of the future, Louisville must greatly expand the number of technology jobs and radically scale our training platform, in partnership with employers, education partners and others," Mayor Fischer said. "Today, we take the first step in doing that by launching LouTechWorks."

As part of LouTechWorks, Jefferson County Public Schools will teach students digital literacy starting as early as kindergarten, introduce an Applied Digital Skills Curriculum in middle school and provide high school students access to technology career pathways through Academies of Louisville. Six regional institutions of higher education also have committed to expand their technology education offerings and grow the number of students participating in various technology degree programs and certifications. Those higher education partners are Bellarmine University, Jefferson Community and Technical College, Indiana University Southeast, Ivy Tech Community College, the University of Kentucky, and the University of Louisville.

Today, Louisville has about 79 percent of the technology jobs it should have for a city of its size, and the economy of the future is going to require significantly more jobs in software development, artificial intelligence, and data analytics. This initiative seeks to meet those demands.

In order to get to 100 percent, we need to quintuple the city's projected technology job growth over the next few years. That means maximizing the local technology talent pipeline and ensuring people are getting the digital literacy and training they need to be competitive and obtain technology jobs, which pay well, are growing fast, and are less susceptible to automation.

In creating LouTechWorks, the city worked with partners from K-12 to short-term training providers to two-year and four-year higher education institutions to maximize the local talent pipeline as much as possible. By increasing the output of trained technology workers, Louisville can fill more open technology jobs and begin to create a positive feedback loop that creates

additional technology jobs through increased business attraction, existing business expansion, and new start-ups. Achieving these goals will create a foundation for a more prosperous city in an increasingly technology-oriented world.

The LouTechWorks complements other recent technology announcements, including the creation of the Center for Digital Transformation at the University of Louisville and the Tech Louisville program, a KentuckianaWorks and AMPED partnership that will allow residents in the city's lowest-income neighborhoods to enter family-supporting IT careers. Tech Louisville was made possible when Louisville won a highly competitive JP Morgan Chase grant as part of its inaugural AdvancingCities Challenge.

The LouTechWorks will also build upon the success of Code Louisville, which has now trained 1,200 Louisvillians for technology jobs, and the recently launched Bit502 apprenticeship being piloted with Appriss, El Toro, GE Appliances, QSR Automations, Texas Roadhouse, and Waystar.

These efforts are just the beginning.

"One critical piece of this puzzle is state funding, and Kentucky is moving in the wrong direction. While most states began to re-invest in themselves as the economy recovered from the Great Recession, Kentucky was one of five states to cut higher education funding last year," the Mayor said. "Until we as a Commonwealth begin to invest in our common future, we cannot expect to achieve better outcomes. We need serious funding for technology in higher education."

Businesses also must join in the effort by creating cooperative or internship programs at their companies to help students learn on the job, by getting involved in the Louisville Tech Alliance and by hiring graduates.

Find out more about LouTechWorks by visiting [loutechworks.org](http://loutechworks.org).

#### **Quotes from the LouTechWorks partners:**

"The University of Louisville is fully committed to this effort to grow our tech talent pipeline to meet the rapidly increasing regional and global workforce demand. We plan to add more faculty, expand and improve our space devoted to tech instruction and offer new programming to make tech more accessible to more people. Our plan for stronger technology programs touches all parts of the university. We expect our efforts to impact our entire campus and, in turn, the community as we graduate better prepared and more knowledgeable students." – **Dr. Neeli Bendapudi, President, University of Louisville**

"Bellarmine is committed to preparing graduates for the technology jobs that exist today while educating innovators to lead the technological enterprises that will define Louisville's economy tomorrow. Technology presents tremendous opportunities for our graduates to translate the ideas inspired by the liberal arts and sciences into real solutions for our world's problems.

We're excited to work with Mayor Fischer and Louisville Forward to align our programs with the community's needs in the area of technological innovation." – **Dr. Susan M. Donovan, President, Bellarmine University**

"Increasing the technology talent pool must be a priority of the entire region. Regions that can grow the number of technology graduates, as well as attract and retain technology talent will be able to compete for the jobs and companies of the future and also enhance the overall quality of life and economic well-being for its entire citizenry. Indiana University Southeast is proud to be teaming up with the City of Louisville and the other educational partners to provide needed education and training to help the region grow and thrive in today's tech environment."

– **Dr. Uric Dufrene, Executive Vice Chancellor for Academic Affairs at Indiana University Southeast**

"As a community college, Ivy Tech is uniquely positioned to respond to regional workforce needs, and technology is an important piece of that. This collaborative initiative aligns with the mission of Ivy Tech, which is why we felt it so important to partner in growing the tech talent pipeline for Greater Louisville and Southern Indiana regions." – **Dr. Travis Haire, Chancellor, Ivy Tech Community College in Southern Indiana**

"We are answering the call from highly engaged members of our business community to build a technologically skilled workforce that keeps talented Louisvillians at home and compels new businesses to call Louisville home. The industry-driven curriculum, resources, and pathways are ready at Jefferson. To reach our city's goals, we need employers, en masse, to join this movement that will bridge their workforce gap." – **Dr. Ty Handy, President, Jefferson Community and Technical College**

"Growing digital literacy at an early age is one of the best steps we can take to ensure that students are prepared for the wide-ranging, good-paying tech jobs available in a 21st century workforce – especially right here in Louisville. From the exciting, innovative learning experiences emerging from our Backpack of Success Skills and Academies of Louisville initiatives to the addition of more, beneficial digital literacy programs in the classroom, we are committed in JCPS to ensuring that students are incorporating technology into learning at every level."

– **Dr. Marty Pollio, Jefferson County Public Schools Superintendent**

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## **Louisville Metro Government recognized as high-performing city in Equipt to Innovate survey**

**LOUISVILLE (June 5, 2019)** — Louisville Metro Government has earned a top ranking in the third annual Equipt to Innovate survey, a Living Cities and Governing magazine collaboration that recognizes cities for exceptional performance and innovation.

The high-performing cities were formally recognized this week at the 2019 [Summit on Government Performance & Innovation](#), an annual gathering of innovators, public sector change-agents, disrupters and civic entrepreneurs from around the country interested in making government work better for local communities.

Louisville Metro earned top honors in the Broadly Partnered category.

“From Day 1 of this administration, we’ve focused on continually improving the services Louisville residents rely on through purposefully finding efficiencies and breakthrough innovations,” Mayor Greg Fischer said. “Our Office for Performance Improvement & Innovation has been at the forefront of this work, and this award shows why they’re among the best in the business of municipal performance improvement.

“I’m especially pleased that Equipt to Innovate is recognizing our efforts to involve a broad base of community partners to help get residents what they need. Now more than ever, that work is essential.”

Louisville Metro Government has been ranked in the survey’s top 10 cities for the last three years.

Carmen Moreno-Rivera, the city’s Chief of Performance Improvement, added: “The Office for Performance Improvement & Innovation works diligently to help our colleagues and partners develop the best practices and innovations we need to provide the best possible services to our community. Our team is honored that this work continues to receive national recognition.”

Equipt to Innovate is an integrated, collaborative framework anchored in seven key characteristics of high-performance government — being dynamically planned, broadly partnered, resident-involved, race-informed, smartly resourced, employee-engaged and data-driven.

Sixty-six cities participated in the 2019 survey, bringing the three-year total to 144 cities.

In recognizing Louisville Metro Government, Equipt noted that the city develops relationships and partnerships with regional institutions, counties, school districts and neighborhood groups to improve the lives of city residents. Among the work cited:

- The Office of Performance Improvement and Innovation develops templates, processes and best practices to advance the Mayor’s strategic plan goals, and shares them widely with various partners, including the Louisville Metro Housing Authority, the city’s utility companies and school systems, and area nonprofits.
- In the area of criminal justice, KentuckianaWorks developed the “Reimage” program to focus on diversion, felony prevention and violence reduction for 16- to 24-year-olds who have been involved with the justice systems.
- The city’s Office for Safe and Healthy Neighborhoods is implementing Louisville’s Cure Violence Program, which is intended to help stop the spread of violence by using strategies associated with disease control — detecting and interrupting conflicts, identifying and treating the highest-risk individuals and changing social norms. The office works with nonprofits, the school system, a local hospital and other Louisville Metro government offices to establish the program in local communities.
- In 2018, Evolve502, a coalition of community, government and education organizations, was launched to better deliver the services all families and children need to succeed and thrive, and to create a scholarship for every JCPS graduate to help make a two-year college degree affordable and achievable.

As part of its Equipt to Innovate honors, top-ranking cities were identified in each of the core elements:

- Dynamically Planned – Dallas, TX
- Broadly Partnered – Louisville, KY
- Resident-Involved – Baltimore, MD
- Race-Informed – San Diego, CA
- Smartly Resourced – San Antonio, TX
- Employee-Engaged – El Paso, TX
- Data-Driven – Grand Rapids, MI

### **About Governing:**

[Governing](#) covers politics, policy and management for state and local government leaders. Recognized as the most credible and authoritative voice in its field, Governing provides non-partisan news, insight and analysis on budget and finance; transportation and infrastructure; workforce and economic development; health and human services and more. Governing is a division of e.Republic, the nation’s only media and research company focused exclusively on state and local government and education.

## About Living Cities:

Living Cities harnesses the collective power of 18 of the world's largest foundations and financial institutions to develop and scale new approaches for creating opportunities for low-income people and improving the cities where they live. Its investments, research, networks, and convenings catalyze fresh thinking and combine support for innovative, local approaches with real-time sharing of learning to accelerate adoption in more places. Additional information can be found at [www.livingcities.org](http://www.livingcities.org).

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## Louisville becoming Microsoft technology hub

*City to serve as hub for artificial intelligence, Internet of Things, and data science*

**LOUISVILLE, KY (June 7, 2019)**— Mayor Greg Fischer today joined Microsoft leaders to announce that Louisville will become a Microsoft regional hub for artificial intelligence, Internet of Things (IoT), and data science.

“Artificial intelligence is the next frontier in technology, and through this collaboration with Microsoft, we will prepare our workforce for the tech revolution and create economic opportunity, while not losing sight of the need for equity within economic growth,” said the Mayor. “We are excited to partner with Microsoft to ensure Louisville residents and businesses are ready for the future economy.”

Louisville will serve as an urban laboratory, and city government will work with education, workforce and business partners to strengthen and diversify the city's core industries, including health care and manufacturing, which face risk of automation from the progression of AI technology. The AI Innovation Digital Alliance with Microsoft, in part, will help companies in vulnerable industries reskill and upskill their workforce to meet the changing demands of the 21st century economy.

Through the alliance, Microsoft will create and fund an AI, IoT and data science fellowship program, including providing training and equipment. The fellows will work with nonprofit, education, start-up, and workforce development organizations, and with area businesses to provide training and support aligned with initiatives focused on AI, IoT and data science.

Additional activities that are part of the AI Innovation Digital Alliance include:

- Microsoft will establish a physical location downtown.
- Microsoft will partner with pre-school through higher education providers on digital literacy training and, with Louisville Metro, will support the Digital Inclusion initiative to close the digital skills gap present in underinvested and disenfranchised communities.
- Louisville Metro, Microsoft, and the Brookings Institution will collaborate on a comprehensive local strategy focused on the impacts of AI, IoT and data science technologies on communities and develop a playbook for how to prepare other communities for the changing economic landscape.
- Microsoft will support AI-assisted applied research to seek solutions to community challenges such as racial disparities in environmental effects on human health and the cultural measures of trust, hope and belonging that impact employee health and talent retention.
- Microsoft will support the local entrepreneurship and innovation ecosystem through grants and other resources.
- Louisville Metro will host a high-level AI, IoT and data science summit in fiscal year 2020 and at least six other events supported by Microsoft.

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## **Louisville's Office for Performance Improvement and Innovation wins IDC Smart Cities award**

**LOUISVILLE (June 12, 2019)** — Louisville Metro Government's Office for Performance Improvement & Innovation is celebrating an IDC Smart Cities North America Award in recognition of its groundbreaking work to reduce costs to the city and improve services by leveraging data from the Waze traffic app.

In presenting the award, IDC cited the work of the OPI2 team and other city agencies to build "the Waze Analytics Relational-database Platform (Waze WARP) using traffic data from Waze and others, and then founding the Open Government Coalition, a network of government agencies working on open source projects.

Waze WARP now provides more than 600 government entities access to data to improve mobility, pedestrian and bike safety, road conditions, and emergency response. The coalition has since embarked on additional projects to foster innovation.

The effort allowed for creation of on-demand reports in place of more costly, slower-to-develop traditional traffic studies.

“We’re thankful for this recognition and excited that Louisville Metro Government and the OPI2 team could pioneer a new, more efficient and less costly way to provide valuable information that cities need to deliver services,” said Grace Simrall, Chief of Civic Innovation & Technology.

The city’s work with Waze was also cited by What Works Cities in April, when Louisville Metro Government was announced as one of only four cities nationwide to achieve the good governance organization’s Gold Certification.

“We continue to be impressed with the quality of projects being implemented by cities and their partners in North America,” said Ruthbea Yesner, Vice President, IDC Government Insights and Smart Cities and Communities. “This year we are working more closely with the finalists and winners to bring these city leaders together to share lessons learned and best practices over the course of the year. We are thrilled to promote these successes and offer a forum for this community to help other municipalities implement similar projects.”

IDC Government Insights presented the winners of the IDC Smart Cities North America Awards last month in New York City. The awards were designed to recognize the progress North American communities have made in executing Smart Cities projects, as well as provide a forum for sharing best practices to help accelerate Smart City development in the region.

Over 70 cities/counties were represented, underscoring the overwhelming success and efficiency of smart city projects implemented across the country. Read more details about the winning projects [here](#).

Mayor Fischer created the Office of Performance Improvement & Innovation, which is currently led by Simrall and Chief of Performance Improvement Carmen Moreno-Rivera, in 2012 to guide Louisville Metro Government in improving the use of evidence, data and innovation to achieve more efficient and effective services for residents.

“Over the past several years, OPI2 has helped the city increase revenue, reduce staff time, increase program reach and avoid costly consultants, and I’m extremely proud of the work they do,” the Mayor said. “Especially now, as we deal with a difficult budget situation, the work that Grace and Carmen and their teams are doing is integral to our goal of finding additional efficiencies and cost savings.”

Other examples of the OPI2 team’s work includes:



This includes:

- A 29% reduction in repair time at Louisville Metro Parks' Central Services repair facility.
- Savings of \$72,000 by taking over the Employee Engagement survey from an outsourced company while substantially increasing the participation rate.
- Hackathons that drew in community partners to help us better use our data.
- Getting more people involved in the digital platforms that are essential for the economy of today and tomorrow. That includes more than 500 low-cost internet sign ups with local providers and distributed more than 350 refurbished donated computers for residents in need in 2018.
- Bringing in \$220,000 to support Digital Inclusion and \$1.5M to implement modern, intelligent transportation systems.

### **About IDC Government Insights**

IDC Government Insights assists government policy, program, and IT leaders, as well as the suppliers who serve them, in making more effective technology decisions by providing accurate, timely, and insightful fact-based research and consulting services. Staffed by senior analysts with decades of government and IT industry experience, our global research analyzes and advises on business and technology issues facing the Federal/Central and local/provincial Governments. International Data Corporation (IDC) is the premier global provider of market intelligence, advisory services, and events for the information technology market. IDC is a wholly-owned subsidiary of IDG, the world's leading technology, media, research, and events company. For more information, please visit [www.idc-gi.com](http://www.idc-gi.com), email [info@idc-gi.com](mailto:info@idc-gi.com), or call 703-485-8300. Visit the IDC Government Insights Community at <http://idc-community.com/government>.

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