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## Press Release - Harp Announces City that Codes Initiative, New Haven

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For IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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# NEW HAVEN TO BECOME THE “CITY THAT CODES”

**New Haven recognized by the National League of Cities as a leading city on innovation, STEM education, and entrepreneurship**

New Haven – Marking national Computer Science Education Week, Mayor Harp and the Elm City Innovation Collaborative announce a new goal to train software engineers and tech talent for the city’s growing innovation economy.

This initiative is part of a new program at the National League of Cities—the City Innovation Ecosystem Program—that aims to support cities that have made specific and important commitments to local entrepreneurship, STEM education, or innovation. NLC announced the 50 cities it would partner with at its annual City Summit in Los Angeles to over 3,500 attendees representing more than 1,500 cities.

Supported by CTNext, New Haven gained acceptance into NLC’s Call to Action through its goal to make New Haven “the City that Codes” through promotion, curriculum, and exciting new programs aiming to double the annual number of new professional-level software talent trained in New Haven by 2022.

The effort has three pillars:

- Inclusive recruitment to engage those in the community currently detached from the tech sector, using schools, libraries, and city buildings to expose residents to new technologies and skills.
- Skill and network development through informal clubs, event series, university partnerships, and other stepping stones to software proficiency;
- Professional-level training at a new satellite location of Silicon Valley’s Holberton School and programs through our university partners.

“When accepting cities, we look for two things. Leadership that is tenacious and willing to forge cross-sector partnerships and commitments to action that will take full advantage of a city’s unique strengths.” Said Scott Andes, Program Director for the Innovation Ecosystem Program. “New Haven had one of our most compelling proposals, with collaboration from partners across the city, and I look forward to working with them and our NLC partners to make it a success.”

“We’re excited by what the National League of Cities recognition means for the growing entrepreneurial ecosystem programs in New Haven: national attention on their inclusive approach to developing software skills can bring students and foundation support from across the country,” said Glendowlyn Thames, Executive Director of CTNext. “Along with Hartford and the Thames River – the other Connecticut cities recognized – these Innovation Places are contributing to a paradigm shift and putting Connecticut on the map as a leader for Innovation-Based economic development.”

Through this commitment, New Haven will join The National League of Cities and other nationally recognized innovation leaders to share best practices, connect with national firms and foundations and gain technical support, and national recognition through NLC forums and publications.

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### **About ECIC**

The Elm City Innovation Collaborative is a volunteer organization of entrepreneurs and residents focused on promoting, connecting, and enabling the ideas and talents that fuel the future of New Haven's diverse innovation sectors, in life sciences, digital technology, and creative and cultural economies. The local recipient of CTNext's Innovation Places program, ECIC funds programs that support and grow New Haven's innovation economy.

### **About CTNext**

CTNext, a quasi-public subsidiary of Connecticut Innovations (CI), aims to foster innovation and entrepreneurship by building a more robust and collaborative entrepreneurial environment within Connecticut. CTNext is composed of a full array of strategic economic development programs in an effort to stimulate and sustain a community infrastructure for Connecticut's entrepreneurs to succeed and grow their businesses.

### **About the National League of Cities**

The National League of Cities (NLC) is dedicated to helping city leaders build better communities. NLC is a resource and advocate for 19,000 cities, towns and villages, representing more than 218 million Americans. Learn more at [www.nlc.org](http://www.nlc.org).

### **About Schmidt Futures**

Schmidt Futures is a philanthropic initiative, founded by Eric and Wendy Schmidt, that seeks to improve societal outcomes through the thoughtful development of emerging science and technologies that can benefit humanity. As a venture facility for public benefit, they invest risk capital in the most promising ideas and most exceptional people across disciplines. Learn more at <https://schmidtfutures.com>