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STRIVE Unveils New State-of-the-Art Career Training Center in East Harlem

New Facility will Serve as STRIVE's National Headquarters and Accommodate Its Rapid Employment Program Growth in NYC



STRIVE's President & CEO, Phil Weinberg, and Co-Founder and Board Chair, H. Thompson Rodman, Jr., officially welcome the public to the new facility.

NEW YORK, NY, March 8, 2018 – STRIVE International, a leading national workforce development agency, unveiled its new state-of-the-art career training facility and headquarters in East Harlem, New York. Located in the same neighborhood in which STRIVE was founded in 1984, the new facility remains rooted in STRIVE's Harlem community, while being easily accessible to New Yorkers from across all five boroughs. The move has come at a time of rapid growth for STRIVE, in which it has doubled its staff, tripled the number of New Yorkers it serves annually, and has extended into 20 US cities.

At the Ribbon Cutting Ceremony on Tuesday, March 6, STRIVE welcomed the public to its new space, along with special guests, Lieutenant Governor Kathy Hochul, Manhattan Borough President Gale Brewer, and a capacity crowd of local leaders and partners. On-hand to celebrate were STRIVE supporters from the Harry & Jeanette Weinberg Foundation, Citi Foundation, New York Women's Foundation, and Upper Manhattan Empowerment Zone, along with corporate partners such as Starbucks and Mount Sinai Health System.

"STRIVE is an organization with a deep history of helping New Yorkers build careers," said **Manhattan Borough President Gale A. Brewer**. "All of us in public service know and relish the fact that the reward for success is more work. STRIVE's modern, professional, and expanded space in this new facility is a reflection of that success, as it's tripled the number of clients it's served in Harlem in just six years."

To better meet the needs of its growth in clients and staff, the nearly 15,000 square foot facility is an expansion from its previous location and was a new build-out completed in collaboration with architects LHSA + DP and Lubrano Ciavarrà Architects. The new and modern space features a more open setting, more flexible and modular classrooms and meeting spaces, increased private rooms for client counseling, upgraded technology systems, and new furniture.

“STRIVE’s new facility, with its modern and aspirational features, promotes the dignity that comes with being employed,” said **Marci Hunn, Program Director of Workforce Development at The Harry and Jeanette Weinberg Foundation**. “The new STRIVE Training Center will allow even more unemployed and underemployed New Yorkers to access STRIVE services, and the Foundation is pleased to support the new facility.”

"During my many visits, I have personally witnessed the transformation of people touched by STRIVE," said **Lieutenant Governor Kathy Hochul**. "I believe in the STRIVE philosophy that every person deserves to have the opportunity to learn skills to better themselves and their families. STRIVE is also playing a key role in ensuring equal opportunities for women through their Women's Empowerment Initiative. I'm proud that New York State supports STRIVE, which is tripling the number of clients they serve and helping to reduce unemployment in the area."

Funding for the new facility was made possible by capital grants from the Manhattan Borough President’s Office, New York City Council, and The Harry & Jeanette Weinberg Foundation, along with generous donations from the STRIVE Board of Directors.

“We’re thrilled that this new space will allow us to serve even more individuals with our life-changing employment services, both here in New York City and as a hub for our exceptional network of STRIVE partners in cities from coast-to-coast,” said **Phil Weinberg, STRIVE’s President & CEO**. “We’re grateful to our partners and supporters who share our vision and have invested in STRIVE’s growth and this wonderful new facility.”

The new facility is located at 205 East 122nd Street in East Harlem, New York. Information on STRIVE programs can be found at www.striveinternational.org.

About STRIVE: STRIVE is a nationally recognized workforce development agency, headquartered in East Harlem, and with programs in 20 US cities. Since its founding in 1984, STRIVE has helped more than 70,000 individuals across the country break the cycle of poverty and transform their lives through comprehensive career development and supportive services. STRIVE’s flagship training center in New York City prepares over 1,000 New Yorkers annually for in-demand careers. STRIVE’s programs have been cited by practitioners and policymakers as a model for assisting individuals who have significant barriers to employment and promotion.