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Building a skilled workforce by creating alternative pathways for driven people seeking careers in technology.

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Press Contact:

Leah Freeman

leah@launchcode.org

901-359-1104

LaunchCode to Transition Out of Seattle & Portland Markets

The Nonprofit will Refocus Resources to Other Markets, Both National & International

ST. LOUIS – LaunchCode, a national nonprofit focused on creating pathways to careers in technology, announced today they will forgo funding and transition out of two northwest markets, refocusing on other projects and initiatives. LaunchCode has operated offices and provided free services in Seattle, WA and Portland, OR since early 2017.

LaunchCode is celebrating its most successful quarter in its history and is continuing to grow, both in the United States and internationally. “In the first quarter of 2018, LaunchCode placed a record number of talented individuals into upwardly mobile tech careers,” Jeff Mazur, Executive Director of LaunchCode, reports. “We also surpassed our budgeted expectations for revenue generated from those job placements, leaving the organization in as strong a financial position as it has ever been.”

LaunchCode was founded to address the tech talent gap currently affecting many cities across the United States. The LaunchCode apprenticeship model encourages companies to rethink outdated hiring practices to value skill and aptitude of individuals entering the field over credentials. LaunchCode found this gap to be significantly less severe in Seattle and Portland, as there is ample entry-level talent in those markets.

“LaunchCode’s model is designed to help employers build a pipeline of junior tech talent they cannot secure elsewhere. But in places like Seattle and Portland, where the market already generates lots of fresh tech talent on its own, we are not able to move the needle in the same way,” said Mazur.

Despite the challenges of the market, more than 265 learners received free, job-focused coding skills and more than 60 people started careers in technology after getting assistance from LaunchCode in Seattle and Portland.

Individuals currently participating in LaunchCode programs in Seattle and Portland will continue to receive services through June. Current students will be directed to other resources and programming in the area. LaunchCoders currently in apprenticeships will continue to work in that opportunity without disruption. All individuals will continue to have access to LaunchCode's free online resources.

About LaunchCode

Founded by Jim McKelvey, co-founder of Square, LaunchCode creates pathways to economic opportunity through free education, apprenticeships and job placement by matching driven, qualified learners with employers experiencing a shortage of diverse tech talent. To learn more, visit www.launchcode.org.

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