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EDITORS: The following information is for immediate release. If you have any questions, please contact Anne Morris, ITAG project consultant of the Chester County Economic Development Council, at 610 458-5700.

Chester County business organizations support new venture to identify internships for high schools

Economic Development Council, ITAG and WIB back MyInternshipGopher.com

EXTON _ MyInternshipGopher.com, a new web-based program to match business internships with high school students and schools is being backed by the Chester County Economic Development Council, the Innovative Technology Action Group (ITAG) and the Chester County Workforce Investment Board.

Gopher, as the program is known, is an online internship management system. “The three way online matching and journaling system between the school, student and business helps prepare students, grow industry pipelines and help businesses stay competitive in the global economy and uncertain economic times,” said Molly Nece, CEO of Gopher.

Those interested in gopher should reference the website and contact Nece at molly@myinternshipgopher.com or 484.888.6191. “We are asking that businesses, schools and students join us in our charge to redefine internships in the 21st century for high school students,” Nece said.

“Taking part in internships is an excellent way for students to prepare for the business world,” said Gary Smith, President and Chief Executive Officer of the Economic Development Council. “Gopher gives students, teachers and business leaders a way to manage internships.”

ITAG's mission is to create and sustain a regional partnership in Southeastern Pennsylvania that encourages technology companies and companies that use technology to grow their businesses in an increasingly sophisticated global marketplace. This is accomplished by working closely with participating companies, economic development agencies, and education/training partners to leverage workforce and business development resources on behalf of ITAG members.

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The Innovative Technology Action Group (ITAG), a high priority occupation partnership for the information and communications technology industry, is an initiative of the Chester County Workforce Investment Board and the Chester County Economic Development Council with grant funds received from the Pennsylvania Department of Labor and Industry.

The Chester County Economic Development Council is a private, non-profit economic development organization that has been nurturing economic growth in Chester County and the surrounding region for more than 45 years. The Council's portfolio of business growth services includes: low-interest financing, small business lending, workforce training, retention and expansion, customized international business assistance, land and building site selection, brownfields consultation and remediation, urban redevelopment, and agricultural economic development. The Council also offers state-of-the art conference and training facilities at its facility in Eagleview. For more information, see www.cceconomicdevelopment.com.