MICROSOFT SMART CITIES TECHNOLOGY HUB IN SYRACUSE

Overview of Memorandum of Understanding between the City of Syracuse, Onondaga County, Syracuse University's School of Information Studies (iSchool) and Microsoft.

Microsoft is choosing Syracuse to be home to its first Smart Cities technology hub in the Northeast and third in the United States. The commitment is a key component of an expansive partnership being planned between the global technology company, the City of Syracuse, Onondaga County, and Syracuse University's iSchool

The collaboration is significant to the Syracuse community because Microsoft will work with the additional partners across the region to deliver a broad curriculum of technology and digital literacy programs to local non-profits, community centers, educational institutions, employment and workforce development organizations, and businesses. The goal is to more rapidly advance the Syracuse Surge, the community's strategy of inclusive growth in the New Economy.

The company will:

- Create a location in the Southside Campus for the New Economy geared toward early-stage start-ups and people who want to build a company

- Partner with education providers and community organizations on digital literacy and workforce training, including DigiCampz and DigiGirlz programs targeted at minorities and women in technology

- Sponsor public events, including an "Innovation Summit" before June 30, 2020, bringing together national and local expertise to envision a bold future for Syracuse

- Support the development and research in Artificial Intelligence (AI) to grow long-term opportunities for residents and place Syracuse on the leading edge of emerging technologies

- Support the continued development of entrepreneurial and innovation ecosystem to help establish / grow new start-ups and jobs

- Support corporate digital transformation efforts for local businesses with technical training and access to subject matter experts and leading practices to help grow local industries

- Support the development of a digital ethics policy and an AI strategy for the City to ensure responsible deployment of new technologies

The City, County and Syracuse University will provide local leadership to the partnership and will actively recruit other institutions and organizations to partner in the programs.

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