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DSDT a Detroit School for Digital Technology is the first ever Detroit hands-on practical training entrepreneur hub for formerly incarcerated individuals. Located in Southwest Detroit, DSDT is redefining the Grow Detroit initiative by creating an “open” business opportunity model of curriculum designed to decrease the “opportunity” gap tens of thousands returning citizens face upon returning to the workforce.

DSDT provides a fast hands-on practical training approach and is equipped with a full variety of in-house state of the art equipment, on-line training modules, national certifications, Diplomas and certificates of completion. DSDT offers returning citizens a concept model of training and a “safe haven” to thrive in the digital age of tomorrow. We empower, educate, employ, hire and connect all individuals with institutional resources and a locally- based network of business owner affiliates. All participant students completing our programs are trained in a variety of entrepreneurial skills including: Life and Leadership Skills, Business Management, Cyber Security, Drone Technology, Graphic Design, Logo/ Brand Design, Photography, Social Media Marketing, 3D Print Design, Direct to Garment Printing, Programming, Career Skills, Business Planning, Resume Portfolio Building, Interviewing and Presentation Skills and the basic computer fundamentals needed for successful completion of these skills.

DSDT was developed on the foundation and innovation to change the vast human cost returning citizens face with “lack” of opportunity. When training, employment and careers are created and made available on the micro level, communities as a whole flourish and the returning citizen communities thrive. DSDT’s unique business entrepreneur training allows

hundreds who want to grow their own businesses, a future in promising tomorrow's leaders. This partner-based innovative business model provides returning citizens with ownership in the work they do. DSDT is part of the community, government and non-profit groups who believed in our organization and training. The benefits to our community and returning citizens are limitless with our collaboration, better education base and ability to create opportunity lowering the barriers and building a sustainability option for all.

At a Glance: DSDT a Detroit School for Digital Technology's founders: Goldman Sachs 10Ksb scholarship alum, Motor City Match Detroit Business Challenge winners x 2, SBA loan recipients, DESC preferred training providers, Detroit Development Fund & Michigan Women's Foundation recipients, Michigan Talent Connect approved student trainers, providing 100% job placement to all Michigan Works students and Mayor Duggan's school of choice for entrepreneur hub training center in Detroit.

By unveiling a partner-based innovative entrepreneurship-training model, we can decrease the disparities in education by disrupting the status quo and employment barriers that exist for returning citizens. In order to do this, we must expose our criminal justice system to the importance of training individuals in these related areas and provide a resolution that results in positive change.

DSDT'S mission is to provide an alternative education model. "In doing so, we create "opportunity" that doesn't necessarily exist for returning citizens".

DSDT is a licensed Trade School providing quality education since it's inception in 2012. DSDT currently works with returning citizens that help to provide quality education to students. DSDT believes in a non-traditional approach to learning. We feel it is imperative that returning citizens feel comfortable and not overwhelmed. We train our students to have "ownership" in their work and how to live a better quality of life.

DSDT has continuous enrollment every six weeks with full or part-time attendance schedules and interactive live training sessions via proctor, skype and satellite trainings. DSDT has a full licensed state, and government approved curriculum with a proven model of success. Unlike large universities with an auditorium of 100 students attending lecture based learning, DSDT students are afforded the opportunity have small or large group discussions with the majority of the curriculum being practical and or “hands-on learning” and the ability to ask a question without feeling inferior or inadequate. DSDT has three class sessions to choose from 5 days/ per week.

DSDT offers many course electives to choose from, but requires a core curriculum base in the following areas: Business Management, Life and Leadership Skills, Entrepreneurship, and Financial Management and full business plan development based upon the Babson, Goldman Sachs 10Ksb entrepreneurship model approach.

DSDT instructors are all approved by our state agency and consist of prior returning citizens, well versed in the core and elective curriculum. Each instructor is current and active in our organizational operation and is an entrepreneur in the community, whom has found a need for our partner-based approach they believe in. The true “real” feedback of returning citizen’s desirable occupational job interests are taken into account and constantly evaluated/ modified based on statistical data and proven results.

DSDT has many affiliate partnerships that aid in the development of the returning citizens: a few of them are listed below as an example.

Michigan Works!*DESC*Focus Hope*SER Metro*Southwest
Solutions*ACCESS*RISE*Microsoft*CompTIA*Guardian Alarm*Enterprise*DTE*Logical
operations*Paramount Capital*Job Corp*Mayor Duggan*Cisco*Oracle*Adob

DSDT'S owner, Jamie Kothe is a leader in the tech related start-up, minority owned businesses.

Kothe, being heavily connected in the Detroit Market for returning citizens has gained the attraction and awareness through key relationships in funding. DSDT is a recipient of government funding, SBA loans and grants from local and state bodies. Kothe, a previous Goldman Sachs 10Ksb alumnae has provided, funded and organized many events in the DSDT'S current location to connect Detroit Entrepreneurs to other business owners, community resources and funding sources. Kothe works heavily with her previous Goldman Sachs 10Ksb business advisors and program director to continually grow funding source options. We have many calendar events on the horizon for SBA roundtable preparation, business plan and strategic development, funding source events and community engagements.

An example of our current affiliate funders:

DDF- Detroit Development Fund

SBA- Small Business Administration

Michigan- Women's Foundation

Keva- Non-Profit (small business lending)

Paramount Capital (third-party lending)

Build Institute (Small business micro-loans)

Motor-City Match Business Challenge

TA assistance dollars- MCM grant funding