

# Chattanooga Forward

Technology, Gig, and Entrepreneurship Task Force

March 19, 2014

## Executive Summary

**Overview.** In late 2013, Mayor Andy Berke launched Chattanooga Forward as a broad strategy for moving the city ahead. He recognized the excellent ongoing work of local leaders by incorporating their efforts into the charge of the Technology, Gig and Entrepreneurship Task Force. This report updates the prior work of the Gig City Initiative with new Task Force deliberations. Task Force members are shown on page 5.

Task Force members took stock of primary lessons learned to date, including successes and milestones. They undertook an analysis of local strengths and weaknesses, and of the opportunities and threats in a larger context of the city's technology, gig bandwidth and entrepreneurship efforts. The following vision, mission and values statements were crafted.

**Vision** – a better city and a better world because of Chattanooga's unique integration of world class connected technology with a dynamic culture of innovation and entrepreneurship.

**Mission** – to establish Chattanooga as a hub of innovation, improving people's lives by leveraging the city's digital technology to create, demonstrate, test, and apply solutions for the 21<sup>st</sup> century.

We believe:

- Information technology and innovation are driving the new global economy
- In working together collaboratively
- Equity and inclusion must be hallmarks of our work
- Chattanooga's unique character and spirit are key advantages for a leap into the new economy.

**Recommendations.** Responding to the Mayor's charge to determine how to use the city's technology, gig, and entrepreneurship assets in moving the city forward, the Task Force developed a set of recommendations. The primary recommendation is to create an adequately resourced implementation structure to oversee the rest of the work in major strategic goal areas.

- **Implementation.** Create a strong public-private partnership led by a board and executive committee of Chattanooga's most highly placed chief executives and civic leaders across the for-profit, non-profit, institutional, entrepreneurial, and philanthropic sectors. Name a set of implementation committees to work under the board's leadership to chart the course of each strategic goal area described below.