



FUTURES AND OPTIONS

Connecting Urban Youth to Careers

For Immediate Release

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BUILDING ON SUCCESS OF YOUTH CAREER DEVELOPMENT AND INTERNSHIP

PROGRAMS, *FUTURES AND OPTIONS* ADDS TWO NEW STAFF POSITIONS

After Serving Record Number of Youth in 2010, Group Aims to Grow by Another 20%

futuresandoptions.org

New York City, February 3 – After serving a record number of teens through its career-development and internship programs in 2010, New York non-profit Futures and Options is expanding with two new full-time staff positions, executive director Patty Machir announced today.

Building on the organization's success, **Tonya Gayle** has been named **senior program director** at Futures and Options, and **Keleigh Karl** has been hired as **corporate partnership manager** at the 15-year-old organization, which has partnered with nearly 300 companies and institutions since its launch in 1995.

By teaming with New York City's business community, [Futures and Options](http://futuresandoptions.org) opens doors for underserved youth to build professional careers. Futures and Options also provides businesses with a trained, educated, and diverse young workforce. Its partners for meaningful, highly supported internships range from corporations like Jefferies, Colgate-Palmolive, and Standard & Poor's to nonprofits like the Alliance for Downtown New York and the Museum of Jewish Heritage.

With the new positions, Futures and Options will expand to a full-time staff of eight. Futures and Options served a record 254 youth in 2010, Machir said, 15% more than in 2009. Its 2011 goal is to reach at least 20% more young people.



Gayle will direct the growing internship, pre-internship and college guidance programs at Futures and Options. She was most recently director of the career program at Sponsors for Educational Opportunity, the nation's premier summer internship program for talented college students of color. Before joining SEO in 2002, Gayle had been director of admissions at New York's School of Visual Arts. She is an alumna of Wesleyan University and is a member of the New York Women's Foundation Grants Advisory Committee and Circle of Sisters for Social Change.



In her role as corporate partnership manager, Karl will work with Machir to expand and develop the organization's network of small-business, non-profit, and multi-national corporate partners, as well as recruit businesses to provide internship sites and participate in career exploration activities with Futures and Options' youth. Before joining Futures and Options, Karl was a vice president on the structured oil & gas derivatives team at Macquarie Bank in Houston. Before Macquarie, she worked at The Royal Bank of Scotland. Karl is an alumna of University of Texas at Austin, and holds a Culinary Arts diploma from The Institute of Culinary Education in New York.

"As we expand to serve more New York City youth, Tonya and Keleigh both bring experience and expertise that make a great match for Futures and Options," Machir said. "I think we'll see some exciting developments with our programs, our business partners, and our growth."

About Futures and Options

Since its inception, Futures and Options has served more than 1,800 New York City teens and coordinated internship placements at more than 300 private and nonprofit businesses in New York City, with 95% of all participants successfully completing their internships, graduating from high school **and** pursuing higher education.

Founded in 1995 as a pilot project of the Alliance for Downtown New York, our program was incorporated as a nonprofit in 1999 and has been cited by the U.S. Department of Labor as a model youth workforce development program.