Vancouver to Participate in Annual Tech Tours on September 19

VANCOUVER, WA, (Sept. 11, 2017) – Individuals interested in learning about Vancouver's tech community and job opportunities can interact with local tech companies on September 19 from 4-7 p.m. at various locations in downtown Vancouver. An afterparty will follow.

The event, designed for tech companies to engage the community, will take place at 13 restaurants, breweries, and tech companies in downtown Vancouver. To register, visit www.techoregon.org/events/2017-tao-tech-tours, click "register" and select the ticket for Downtown Vancouver Tech Tours. Prices are $10 for general admission and $5 for students.

Eric Preisz, an operating partner at Graham Software investment firm, said, "Recruiting for tech companies is very competitive. A vibrant, active community is key to finding the right people. Events like this are more than just an excuse to mingle, they are a glue that helps the community grow."

The event will highlight some of Vancouver's most promising and established tech companies. Participating companies include: Perfect Company, Real Wear, HP and others. Perfect Company develops connected products for the kitchen and Real Wear develops a hands-free, industrial head-mounted wearable computer.

The event will begin at The Bridge Incubator, a local source for startup support and mentorship at 800 C Street, and continue to locations including Tap Union, Pacific House, Trusty Brewing Company and others.

The event is a collaboration between Workforce Southwest Washington, VanTechy, The Bridge Incubator, Columbia River Economic Development Council and Technology Association of Oregon.

An afterparty will follow the Vancouver portion of the Tech Tour and will be held at Columbia Collective, a co-working space at 810 Main Street in Vancouver. During the afterparty, VanTechy, a local tech meetup, will announce five new tech meetups designed to educate the community on topics such as AI (artificial intelligence) and information security. Participants can register for the free afterparty at www.meetup.com/VanTechy.

Dave Barcos, executive director of The Bridge Incubator, said, "We have so many great companies in and around downtown. In a single evening, this event gives participants the opportunity to meet with and learn about the great tech scene we have in Southwest Washington."

About Workforce Southwest Washington www.workforcesw.org**.** Workforce Southwest Washington oversees the workforce system for Clark, Cowlitz and Wahkiakum counties. In the past decade, we've invested more than $70 million to get people working in Southwest Washington.

About VanTechy www.meetup.com/VanTechy**.** VanTechy is the social starting point for Vancouver Tech. We host free events and meetups on topics from AI to UX.

About The Bridge Incubator www.thebridgeincubator.com**.** The Bridge Incubator pulls the region's most powerful and motivated startup founders and puts them within reach of your startup.

About CREDC www.credc.org**.** CREDC's mission is to develop a strong, innovative Clark County business environment in collaboration with our private and public-sector partners. CREDC is your dedicated business concierge connecting you with resources to accelerate your business relocation, growth, and innovation since 1983.

About TAO www.techoregon.org**.** TAO unites the region's technology industry and is a recognized leader in shaping and growing technology and business communities. We empower businesses and entrepreneurs through networks, events, resources and more.

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