To elevate the rich talent present in cities like Camden, New Jersey, it is imperative to create pipelines of educational, employment, and entrepreneurial opportunities. These pipelines simultaneously open pathways to prosperity and strengthen communities. As an anchor institution, Rutgers–Camden is uniquely equipped to bring together diverse agencies to support the priorities of people where they live, work, and play.

The Rutgers–Camden Innovation Community Hub aims to transform the Camden community into a center of social and economic enterprise. To that end, it will align Camden residents, Rutgers faculty and students, and private, public, government, and nonprofit agencies to develop innovative, entrepreneurial solutions that advance sustainable socioeconomic growth. These broad-ranging collaborations will generate job skills and small business trainings; create pathways to prosperous employment through externship, internship, and mentorship programs; support small business and entrepreneurship development; and enhance academic, community and political leadership while advancing social justice, community resiliency, and economic development.

This idea will leverage Rutgers–Camden’s vast resources as an anchor institution and champion of civic and social responsibility. The community hub will serve as a gathering space for creative and talented community leaders and university entrepreneurs, who will come together to learn, share, grow, establish connections, and create an entrepreneurial ecosystem within Camden and beyond. A vital component of the hub will be disseminating lessons learned to inform policymaking and kick-start lasting societal change. In this way, the Rutgers–Camden Innovation Community Hub will serve as a model for cities in the United States and around the world.
The Rutgers–Camden Innovation Community Hub is one of Rutgers’ Big Ideas, which leverage the innovative potential of our world-class university community to improve the human condition. Bringing these Big Ideas to life will require bold thinking, multidisciplinary collaboration, and philanthropic support.

The team behind the Rutgers–Camden Innovation Community Hub invites your partnership in five key areas:

**WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT AND TRAINING**

- Provide training to equip community members with the in-demand skills necessary for jobs in local industries

**BUSINESS ENTREPRENEURSHIP**

- Support small business leaders in their efforts to become social entrepreneurs
- Collaborate with the private and public sector to create pathways to prosperous employment (e.g., externships, internships, and mentorships)
- Develop and implement financial trainings

**SOCIAL INCLUSION AND HEALTH EQUITY**

- Collaborate with Rutgers faculty, staff, students, and community agency partners to identify and develop innovative solutions to the city’s social and economic challenges and develop new ideas to advance greater equity and access
- Develop systems for redistributing resources to alleviate inequity

**BUILDING THE RICH PIPELINE**

- Develop systems for serving community members at all stages of life. This will include programming for early learning and K-12 schools, expanded health care access, improved public safety, and solutions for food insecurity

**PEOPLE, PLACE, AND PATHWAYS**

- Advance initiatives to expand access and success when it comes to job creation, job readiness and soft skills training, and more

To learn how you can get involved, please contact:

Kathleen Brennan
Senior Director of Development, Rutgers-Camden
katecb@camden.rutgers.edu
Office: 856.225.6577