

Contact: Latia Leonard  
Phone: (313) 378-4122  
Email: [latia@freshwaterfuture.org](mailto:latia@freshwaterfuture.org)  
Website: [www.freshwaterfuture.org](http://www.freshwaterfuture.org)

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE  
July 20, 2018

## **Press Event to Celebrate Successful Launch of Flint Youth Water Education and Testing Program for Residents**

**Flint, Michigan, July 20, 2018** – In partnership with the Flint Development Center, Genesee Country Hispanic Latino Collaborative, Flint Neighborhoods United, and the University of Michigan Biological Station, Freshwater Future successfully launched a youth water testing program this summer. Over the course of the past 2 months, we recruited and trained youth, ages 16 – 18 years old, on how to properly collect water samples, sent them to the University of Michigan Biological Station where they were tested, and are now set to receive the results to return to homeowners.

More than 15 youth dedicated time this summer to learn about drinking water, water quality and scientific testing of water. The youth collected samples from residences, community centers and City Hall to evaluate the lead content with and without filter use. In addition to learning about water testing, the youth also learned about other critical soft skills, such as communication both verbal and written, increased filter education provided by Flint Neighborhoods United, and cultural awareness of water issues impacting Flint's high Latino and Hispanic population with the Hispanic Latino Collaborative.

On Tuesday, July 24, 2018 at 1:00 pm at the Flint Development Center, celebrating the success of the program, Mayor Karen Weaver will speak at a press conference introducing the project. The goal is to develop a full time community lab run by and for residences in Flint. The lab, as developed by community leaders will provide residences with a trusted source of water testing, job and skill development, and educational path for youth in career fields of water quality and environmental justice. A webpage dedicated to the lab where news and updates can be found, will be added to our main page [www.freshwaterfuture.org](http://www.freshwaterfuture.org) in the near future.