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NEWS RELEASE

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GHP GETS *HYPED*, REACHES OUT TO HOUSTON'S YOUNG PROFESSIONALS

HOUSTON – The Greater Houston Partnership today announced the launch of its **Houston Young Professionals Endeavor (HYPE)** program. *HYPE*'s mission is to groom the region's next generation of business leadership by providing unique professional development programming and opportunities to engage with leaders of GHP Member businesses. Additionally, GHP will look to this group to offer perspective from the 21 to 40 demographic on the regional issues GHP addresses.

Forbes.com ranks Houston as one of the top cities in the U.S. for young professionals. As the premier business organization in the Houston region, GHP sees the launch of *HYPE* as an important step in continuing regional economic prosperity and advocating for the issues that shape our future. "To secure GHP's legacy of leadership, we must tap into new energy from a broader range of community leaders," says Patrick Oxford, chairman of GHP. *HYPE* will provide the region's emerging leaders a forum to learn from heads of industry to enhance their professional networks and to be a voice at the table as GHP leads the way in moving this region forward.

The program will offer unique continuing education programs, professional development experiences and networking opportunities, the first of which will be a kick-off event in conjunction with The Houston Texans' Draft Day Party at Reliant Stadium on Thursday, April 22nd.

There is no cost to join *HYPE*, and it is open to GHP Members and nonmembers. It will serve as a sub-committee of GHP's Member Services committee which is chaired by Jamey Rootes, president, The Houston Texans. *HYPE*'s leadership team boasts up-and-coming talent from around the region and across industry sectors. The team is led by chair Will McMullen, UBS Investment Bank, and includes:

- David T. Anderson, III, 20.10 Media, LLC
- Beau Bellow
- Cassye Cook, Sysco Corporation
- Wes Johnson, Noble Energy, Inc.
- Jen Lemanski, Pannell Kerr Forster of Texas, PC
- Benton Love, Calpine Corporation
- Max Monzon, Raintree Resorts International
- Alyssa Rodriguez, UBS Financial
- Nate Stockard, Melaroo Web Marketing

(more)

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Recognizing that future business leaders are increasingly tech-savvy, **HYPE** is employing several social media platforms to reach the region's young professionals with a presence on Facebook ([Houston Young Professionals Endeavor – HYPE](#)), [Twitter \(ghphype\)](#), [LinkedIn](#) and [Ning](#).

For more information or to join **HYPE**, visit www.houston.org/hype. To RSVP for **HYPE**'s kick-off event, contact Abby McFarland at 713-844-3692 or amcfarland@houston.org.

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The Greater Houston Partnership is the primary advocate of Houston's business community and is dedicated to building regional economic prosperity. It represents 10 counties: Austin, Brazoria, Chambers, Fort Bend, Galveston, Harris, Liberty, Montgomery, San Jacinto and Waller. With more than 2,100 Member organizations, GHP represents approximately one-fifth of the region's work force. Visit GHP at houston.org.