

# VENTURE FOR AMERICA

**Venture for America is a fellowship program for young, talented graduates to spend 2 years in the trenches of a startup with the goal of mobilizing them as entrepreneurs moving forward.**

We recruit the best and brightest recent college graduates, provide them with training and mentorship, and place them at partner startups to help build those organizations. Our goal is to participate in the creation of 100,000 new U.S. jobs by 2025.

VFA's focus is on cities with a low cost of living and a strong commitment to revitalizing the regional economy through entrepreneurship. Our partners in these cities are exciting growth companies looking to hire supremely talented young people and mold them, fostering a wave of future startup builders strongly connected to their cities' entrepreneurial ecosystems.

Our inaugural class consists of 40 Fellows, who are being hired by startups across five VFA 2012 cities. In 2013, we anticipate 80-100 Fellows and several additional cities



## Our Mission Statement

*To revitalize American cities and communities through entrepreneurship  
To enable our best and brightest to create new opportunities for themselves and others.  
To restore a culture of achievement that includes value-creation, risk & reward, and the common good*

## Press

THE WALL STREET JOURNAL. **TIME** The New York Times TechCrunch **TE** **FASTCOMPANY Inc.**

Venture for America is a registered 501c3 non-profit.  
Visit us at <http://www.VentureForAmerica.org>

## Selected VFA Fellows



**Mike Mayer**  
UPenn Wharton '12  
B.S. Economics  
GPA: 3.9  
Turned down offer from  
Credit Suisse to join  
VFA. Was his high  
school valedictorian



**Charles Watkins**  
Yale '12  
B.S. Psychology  
GPA: 3.6  
Worked in  
consulting, research  
before turning to  
VFA to rebuild his  
hometown, Detroit



**Kathy Cheng**  
MIT '12  
B.S. Economics,  
Urban Planning  
GPA: 3.7  
Worked with Startup  
America initiative,  
finalist in MIT  
Business Plan  
Competition



**Scott Lowe**  
OU '12  
BA Engineering  
Physics, Comp Sci  
GPA: 4.0  
Intern at Center for  
Creation of Economic  
Wealth. Codes in C++,  
Java

## Selected Partner Companies



### Swipely

Credit card loyalty  
and rewards  
platform for local  
merchants



### Kickboard

K-12 student  
performance  
tracking  
software for  
classrooms



### Detroit Venture Partners

VC firm  
investing in tech  
startups in  
Detroit



### Blackbook HR

Software  
developer for  
businesses  
seeking to retain  
top talent



### Accio Energy

Developing  
distributed wind  
energy systems  
without moving  
parts

## Selected Advisers and Supporters



**Jeff Weiner**  
CEO of LinkedIn



**Andy Weissman**  
Partner at Union  
Square Ventures



**Tony Hsieh**  
CEO of Zappos,  
Founder of Downtown  
Project



**Dave Tisch**  
Managing Director of  
TechStars NYC