

Entrepreneurial Alumni
Chris Worsey (September 2006 – New York)

1 What your company is/does, and your role in it

Futurebridge is a for profit social good start-up that uses unique algorithms and in-depth business profiles to match young people into jobs in the tech start-up industry.

The social part of our business is that for every three young people we place into a business, we will train another young person in digital skills for free. This widens the digital talent pool and brings down youth unemployment which is one of the biggest challenges globally at the moment.

2 What inspired you to set it up (any reference to your time on the Programme would be good here)

When I was on Mountbatten I was really inspired by the company I worked for – Buchbinder and Warren on Union Square. It was run by two massively successful entrepreneurs who though in their 80's, used to still take a big role in the day to day running of the company.

However they didn't just run the company to make money – they also wanted to help their employees and make a difference to the area around them. They formed one of the first Business Improvement Districts in Manhattan, which was hugely influential in transforming their part of the city after the 70s and 80s. They also treated all of their employees and interns as part of an extended family. I actually remember one of the founders, Mr Warren, crying when it came time for the six interns to leave – it was that sort of company.

That combination of entrepreneurship, social good and creating a family atmosphere in the work place, made a deep impression on me and began the thinking that culminated in Futurebridge.

3 How you went about setting it up and getting established

As well as the business, I am currently a Parliamentary candidate and Councillor too. Through these roles in politics I've been exploring issues such as youth unemployment at great length. I began setting up Futurebridge by talking to as many young job seekers as possible. Young people now want to be more entrepreneurial, work for organisations with purpose and want to pursue leadership opportunities pretty much straight away. This seemed to me to fit perfectly with working for fast-growing start-ups who are really leading the charge when it comes to creating incredible professional opportunities.

I designed and launched the platform and within four weeks we had over 1000 young people and twenty fast-growing start-ups sign up from all around the UK.

4 What your future plans involve

My future plans are to run a great parliamentary campaign between now and May! It's a tough seat but I have learned a lot and had a lot of fun. With Futurebridge we have just started reaching out to fast-growing start-ups in New York and Boston. The initial reaction seems to be positive so we will look to grow out on the East Coast too. Initially I am meeting with angel investors to put a seed round together for Futurebridge. We hope to raise enough money by May to help us continue our expansion throughout the UK and the East Coast.

www.futurebridge.co.uk

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