



For Immediate Release
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JMU Grad Brings Variety to Downtown Economy

Harrisonburg, VA – Harrisonburg’s Department of Economic Development strives to have a variety of successful businesses make up its business economy. One local start-up has brought that necessary variety to the downtown area along with the drive to partner with a local university.

It should come as no surprise that Chiedo John runs his own company. He has been tinkering with computers since childhood and began writing code in third grade. By his middle school years, Chiedo was operating business ventures. It is safe to say that he has entrepreneurship in his blood.

Chiedo John is the Founder & CEO of Chiedo Labs, a web development firm based in downtown Harrisonburg. Chiedo arrived in Harrisonburg as a student at James Madison University (JMU), where he studied computer science. During his senior year, he launched Chiedo Labs and began hiring fellow JMU students and graduates. Upon his graduation in 2013, Chiedo set up shop leasing a space on Court Square. Today, Chiedo has six employees working with him in Harrisonburg.

“In the summer of 2012, I interned for AOL in Baltimore and a company by the name of Market Aces. I was pretty much guaranteed a job at either company but during my time away from Harrisonburg, I was reminded of how fond of the Friendly City I had become. Harrisonburg feels like home, I love the community, and I want to see the area succeed,” Chiedo John explained.

“Chiedo Labs is an ideal fit for downtown Harrisonburg. These talented web developers bring vibrancy and energy to our business community. They are connected to the JMU talent pipeline and are poised for growth. They network with other IT firms in the downtown core and feed off the innovation and enthusiasm,” said Brian Shull, Harrisonburg’s Economic Development Director.

Harrisonburg’s Department of Economic Development serves as an active partner for existing and prospective businesses in the city and provides incentives and resources for start-ups, small businesses, and large corporations.

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More information about Chiedo Labs is available at: <https://labs.chie.do/>.

Information on Harrisonburg's Department of Economic Development and the incentives available to businesses is available at: www.harrisonburgdevelopment.com.

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