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NEW YORK, NY, June 1, 2017 - MCW, a New York-based non-profit organization dedicated to addressing communities' pressing needs by empowering current leaders and readying leaders of tomorrow, appoints JC Soto as the Young Leaders Program Director.

The Young Leaders Program Director is a new position at MCW - covering specific programmatic areas including the annual Young Leaders Access Program and Retreat (YLA), the international Young Leaders Conference (YLC), Alumni Ventures Fund (AVF), and the Alumni Community. Understanding that this is a growing program, the Director work closely with the team to refine and grow the program in line with MCW's mission and vision.

"We are excited to have JC join as MCW's Young Leaders Program Director, a new position within the organization," says Khalid Elachi, Chief Operating Officer and former Young Leaders Program Coordinator. "JC's experience, insight, and passion towards youth empowerment and development will be an integral part of the program's growth and expansion."

JC most recently served as the Associate Director for Pre-Collegiate Programs at Barnard College, Columbia University, in New York, New York. He was responsible for executing the Science and Technology Entry Program; a pre-college program providing academic enrichment opportunities for 7th-12th grade students to prepare them to pursue post-secondary education in science, technology, or health-related fields, or as licensed health professionals. Prior to his role at Barnard College, JC served as the College Directions Program Director at Kingsbridge Heights Community Center, as Program Manager at PowerMyLearning, as Training Specialist at MOUSE Inc., and as Rap Director at College Summit.

JC holds a Master of Public Administration degree in Nonprofit and Higher Education Administration from the Austin W. Marxe School of Public and International Affairs at Baruch College, City University of New York and a Bachelor of Arts degree, summa cum laude in Sociology from Lehman College, City University of New York.

"As a youth development practitioner, it is critical for young people to have the opportunity to share positive experiences and relationships with peers and mentors in an environment that supports and nurtures them," says JC. "This philosophy has allowed me to become the professional that I am today and I firmly believe that philosophy is deeply rooted in the Young Leaders Program at MCW."