Helix accelerates innovation in personal genomics with a new Denver office

Helix, a personal genomics company, today announced the expansion of its senior leadership team and the addition of a new office in Denver, adding to Helix’s headquarters in San Carlos, CA, and lab operations in San Diego.

The decision to open in Denver was made after evaluating several key markets with Denver winning out due to the depth of talent and rapidly expanding tech and biotech scene. The company also announced the acquisition of Denver-based platform partner HumanCode. The entire HumanCode team, including co-founders Ryan Trunck and Jennifer Lescallett, will join the Helix team with responsibility for enhancing the end-to-end customer experience and increasing support for the company’s growing ecosystem of product development partners.

“Science and technology continue to transform public health and wellness. In a health-conscious and tech-savvy state like Colorado, that means a vibrant bioscience industry empowering us to achieve our full health potential,” said Colorado Governor John Hickenlooper. “Helix’s acquisition of HumanCode is a validation of bio health innovation that originated right here in Colorado. Their long-term commitment to the market shows our value as a true innovation hub.”

“We’re proud to welcome Helix to the Mile High City, and we’re excited to witness the synergies that they and HumanCode will bring to our healthcare and technology sectors,” said Denver Mayor Michael B. Hancock. “Denver is one of the strongest city economies in the nation, and this acquisition and expansion speaks volumes about our city’s strong culture of innovation and entrepreneurship.”

“We founded HumanCode to help people learn more about themselves through DNA, and are thrilled to join the Helix team and make personal genomics accessible and actionable for everyone,” said Chris Glode, Helix’s new Chief Product Officer. “We are excited to build a hub of personal genomics innovation in Denver and leverage the Rocky Mountain region’s growing pool of tech talent.”

Unlike other personal genomics companies that require a separate DNA sample for each product they provide, Helix collects and sequences a DNA sample once, and then securely stores and protects a customer’s data so they can access additional DNA-powered products and services from the Helix store without providing another saliva sample. Today, the Helix store includes 35 products from 20 partners. Each product is evaluated by the Helix scientific team and must meet the requirements of the company’s evidence evaluation process.

About Helix
Helix is a personal genomics company with a simple but powerful mission: to empower every person to improve their life through DNA. Their DNA-powered products help people explore diverse and uniquely personalized information developed by high-quality partners. Helix handles sample collection, DNA sequencing, and secure data storage so that our partners can integrate DNA insights into products across a range of categories, including ancestry, health wellness and entertainment. Helix is headquartered in the San Francisco Bay Area, has an office in Denver, and operates a CLIA- and CAP-accredited next-generation sequencing lab in San Diego powered by Illumina (NASDAQ:ILMN) NGS technology. Helix was created in 2015 with founding support from Illumina, its largest shareholder. Learn more at www.helix.com.

About OED
The Office of Economic Development (OED) is dedicated to advancing economic prosperity for the city of Denver, its businesses, neighborhoods, and residents. Working with a wide array of community partners, OED operates to create a local environment that stimulates balanced growth through job creation, business assistance, housing options, neighborhood redevelopment and the development of a skilled workforce. Learn more at www.denvergov.org/oed.

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