AT&T Receives National Recognition from the Education Commission of the States

The centerpiece of the company’s efforts is AT&T Aspire, a $100 million philanthropic program designed to focus on the high school dropout crisis in America. The initiative, launched in 2008, represents the company’s biggest and most significant investment in education in its history. The program launched with four initial components: education grants and contributions, job shadowing, underwriting of national research and dropout prevention summits.

Aspire reaches a wide audience. For example, by the end of second quarter 2010, the job shadowing initiative reached more than 49,000 students in more than 200 cities. Working with Junior Achievement, the program matches students with AT&T employees to learn more about career options and what it takes to be successful in today’s workforce. More than 17,000 AT&T employees have spent close to 145,000 hours volunteering to participate in the Job Shadow program.

“AT&T’s Aspire initiative addresses one of the top education problems facing school districts and states around the country. Making education relevant to life is key to reducing the high school dropout rate and becoming globally competitive again,” said ECS President Roger Sampson.

“It takes all of us working together – from the education and business communities, as well as our government officials, to address the high school dropout crisis,” said Laura Sanford, president of the AT&T Foundation. “It is particularly meaningful to receive this recognition from ECS, an organization...
dedicated to bringing people from all these critical sectors together to discuss solutions that work and how best to bring them to scale.”

Beyond AT&T’s nationwide initiatives, each state office is committed to improving education in their state. In North Carolina for example, AT&T funded Clinton City Schools’ Center of Excellence Academy, a program to help incoming 9th graders make an easier transition into high school. The Academy gives students in-depth support in academics, tutoring and credit recovery to keep them on track for on-time graduation from high school. AT&T also serves as the sponsor of the North Carolina Teacher of the Year Award and has adopted an elementary school in a low income community.

“Over the past 45 years, ECS has supported states in the development and implementation of state policies that are designed to increase graduation rates and successful transition into college and the skilled workforce,” said Cynthia Marshall, AT&T North Carolina president. “Both AT&T and ECS believe every child has the potential to succeed and to achieve something great and graduating from high school is an indispensable step on that lifelong journey. AT&T is dedicated to improving student outcomes in North Carolina and across the country.”

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ECS is the only nationwide, nonpartisan interstate compact devoted to education. ECS helps governors, legislators, state education officials and others identify, develop and implement public policies to improve student learning at all levels. A nonprofit organization, ECS was formed in 1965 and is located in Denver, Colorado.

**About AT&T**

AT&T Inc. (NYSE:T) is a premier communications holding company. Its subsidiaries and affiliates – AT&T operating companies – are the providers of AT&T services in the United States and around the world. With a powerful array of network resources that includes the nation’s fastest 3G network, AT&T is a leading provider of wireless, Wi-Fi, high speed Internet and voice services. A leader in mobile broadband, AT&T also offers the best wireless coverage worldwide, offering the most wireless phones that work in the most countries. It also offers advanced TV services under the AT&T U-verseSM and AT&T | DIRECTVSM brands. The company’s suite of IP-based business communications services is one of the most advanced in the world. In domestic markets, AT&T Advertising Solutions and AT&T Interactive are known for their leadership in local search and advertising. In 2010, AT&T again ranked among the 50 Most Admired Companies by FORTUNE® magazine.

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About Philanthropy at AT&T

AT&T Inc. (NYSE:T) is committed to advancing education, strengthening communities and improving lives. Through its philanthropic initiatives and partnerships, AT&T has a long history of supporting projects that create learning opportunities; promote academic and economic achievement; and address community needs. In 2009, more than $155 million was contributed through corporate-, employee- and AT&T Foundation-giving programs.

Equipping Education Leaders, Advancing Ideas