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AT&T Awards \$80,000 Grant to Help Address High School Dropout Crisis in Northwest Tennessee

*Program Is Part of \$100 Million AT&T Aspire Initiative to Promote
High School Success and Workforce Readiness*

Dyersburg, Tn., October 23, 2008 — AT&T Inc. (NYSE:T) today announced an \$80,000 grant to Dyersburg State Community College to support their peer tutoring program, matching high-achieving junior and senior high school student mentors with at-risk 9th and 10th grade students. Lake County, Halls, Ripley, Covington, and Brighton High Schools were selected to participate in the Peer Mentor After School Project made possible by the AT&T Aspire grant. High School selection was based on exemplary performance results in peer tutoring reported to the Workforce Development Division of Dyersburg State Community College.

The grants are part of the company's signature initiative, AT&T Aspire, which was announced earlier this year and helps address high school success and workforce readiness. AT&T has committed \$100 million in philanthropy through 2011 to schools and nonprofit organizations that are focused on high school retention and better preparing students for college and the workforce.

More than 170 schools and nonprofit organizations will receive almost \$12 million in competitive grants from the AT&T Foundation this year that are designed to support high school retention programs at national and local levels for at-risk students.

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“Preparing our young people for success in school and the workplace is a fundamental part of our mission at Dyersburg State,” said Dr. Karen Bowyer, President of Dyersburg State Community College. “The greatest assets we have to address the high school drop out crisis are our high achieving students and this grant will help us reach many more students in need.”

“Dyersburg State is a powerhouse in our area and their work with high school students will have a tremendous impact on our community and these young people,” said Speaker Jimmy Naifeh. “This is a fantastic initiative to reach young people at a critical juncture in their high school careers and we are very fortunate to have a strong community partner like AT&T in this endeavor. “

As one of the largest-ever corporate commitments to high school retention and workforce readiness, the \$100 million AT&T Aspire program will support organizations with strong track records that promote educational success, from the classroom to the workplace. The recipient programs of this year’s High School Success grants provide a range of support for students, including academic intervention, mentoring and tutoring services.

“We are pleased to help expand the reach of Dyersburg State’s peer tutoring program,” said Gregg Morton, President of AT&T Tennessee. “The success of our young people is critical to the success of our communities, our state and our nation.”

In addition to the retention program grants, AT&T Aspire will award funding in three other key areas:

- A **student job shadowing initiative** involving 400,000 AT&T employee hours that will give 100,000 students a firsthand look at the skills they will need to succeed in the 21st century workforce.
 - The underwriting of **national research** that will explore the practitioner perspective (teachers, principals, superintendents, school counselors and school board members) on the high school dropout issue.
 - Support for 100 state and **community dropout prevention summits**, announced earlier this year by America’s Promise Alliance.
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For more information about the AT&T Aspire initiative, please visit www.att.com/education-news.

Find More Information Online:

Web Site Links: AT&T Web Site About the AT&T Foundation	Related Media Kits: AT&T Aspire
Related Releases: AT&T Makes \$1 Million Contribution in Support of the National Urban League's Project Ready College Access Program	Related Fact Sheets: Overview of AT&T's Education Commitment AT&T 2008 Corporate Citizenship Brochure

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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 supports projects that create learning opportunities; promote academic and economic achievement; and address community needs. In 2007, AT&T contributed more than \$164 million through corporate-, employee- and AT&T Foundation-giving programs. AT&T and the AT&T Foundation, the corporate philanthropy organization of AT&T, combine more than \$1.9 billion of historic charitable commitment to communities across the country.

About AT&T

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