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AT&T Awards \$312,000 Grant to Expand JMG Dropout Prevention Program

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

NOVEMBER 5, 2008 Jackson, MS – AT&T Inc. (NYSE:T) announced today that it is “On the Bus” with a four-year, \$312,000 grant to Jobs for Mississippi Graduates (JMG). The grant will fund expansion of JMG’s dropout prevention program to three additional high schools: Columbia, Greenville, and Hazlehurst.

Dr. Joe Haynes, Executive Director - JMG, said the grant will enable JMG to take a proven dropout prevention program into additional areas of the state. “Since 1990, JMG programs have helped nearly 13,000 at-risk middle and high school students to stay in school and have prepared them to enter the workforce,” said Haynes. “Thanks to AT&T, we will now be able to positively impact the future of more students and more communities.”

“The investment in education that AT&T has made is an example of great corporate citizenship,” Dr. Hank M. Bounds, State Superintendent of Education, said. “When businesses reach out to schools and help students succeed today, they are helping students to be better prepared to enter the workplace of tomorrow and help businesses succeed in the future. It’s a win-win situation.”

“AT&T’s investment in students in Columbia, Greenville and Hazlehurst through the Jobs for Mississippi Graduates program underscores our commitment to education throughout the state.” said Mayo Flynt, President – AT&T Mississippi. “By helping students graduate from high school and encouraging them to continue their education or start building their careers, we can help them succeed – not just in school, but in life.”

The grant will begin funding the additional JMG programs during the current school year. Jobs for Mississippi Graduates provides in-school tutoring and mentoring to at-risk students.

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

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.

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

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. Among their offerings are the world's most advanced IP-based business communications services and the nation's leading wireless, high speed Internet access and voice services. In domestic markets, AT&T is known for the directory publishing and advertising sales leadership of its Yellow Pages and YELLOWPAGES.COM organizations, and the AT&T brand is licensed to innovators in such fields as communications equipment. As part of its three-screen integration strategy, AT&T is expanding its TV entertainment offerings. In 2008, AT&T again ranked No. 1 on *Fortune* magazine's World's Most Admired Telecommunications Company list and No. 1 on America's Most Admired Telecommunications Company list. Additional information about AT&T Inc. and the products and services provided by AT&T subsidiaries and affiliates is available at <http://www.att.com>.

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