



**CITY YEAR BATON ROUGE**

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cityyear.org

## City Year Baton Rouge to Help Students in their Quest to Graduate with \$250,000 from AT&T

*One of 18 Recipients of \$10 Million in Contributions to Programs Across U.S.*

**BATON ROUGE, LA October 12, 2016** — Due to City Year Baton Rouge’s success supporting and motivating underserved students to stay in school and prepare for their next step in life, it has been selected as one of 18 recipients nationwide that will share in \$10 million from AT&T through the [Aspire Connect to Success Competition](#). Hundreds of organizations applied to the competition, which is part of [AT&T Aspire](#), AT&T’s signature philanthropic initiative to help students succeed in school and beyond.

Aspire Connect to Success funding recipients deliver integrated student supports, focus on college or career preparation, and/or provide mentoring or peer-to-peer supports to help underserved students graduate. Through a competitive request for proposal process, the 18 non-profits, including City Year Baton Rouge, were selected based on their effectiveness in helping students graduate ready for career or college. Selected programs use evidence based approaches to serve students and are able to demonstrate quantitative results.

During the 2016-2017 school year, 93 City Year AmeriCorps members will serve in 11 Baton Rouge schools impacting over 5,200 students. To reduce dropout rates, City Year Baton Rouge supports students by improving academic achievement and helping to transform high-need schools with the Whole School Whole Child (WSWC) learning platform. The WSWC model places diverse teams of 8-13 corps members into under-represented schools for 10 months to work with students most at-risk of dropping out. Trained corps members provide quality support to students, teachers and the broader school community to accelerate learning and performance.

“City Year Baton Rouge is proud to build and utilize public-private partnerships to address our dropout crisis,” said City Year Baton Rouge’s Executive Director Ryann Denham. “AT&T’s generous investment allowed us to expand into a high school environment and we are thrilled to have the opportunity to follow our students from Broadmoor Middle to ensure a successful transition into 9<sup>th</sup> grade.”

“Louisiana’s future economic success begins with academic success today which is why continuing to work together to reduce the dropout rate is vital. Programs like City Year Baton Rouge’s Whole School Whole Child Program, supported by the private sector, open the door to a new, positive future for students who might otherwise be left behind,” said State Representative Pat Smith.

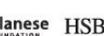
**CITY YEAR BATON ROUGE  
LEAD PARTNERS**



**NATIONAL STRATEGIC PARTNERS**



**NATIONAL PARTNERS**





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“The future of our country, and our business, depends on a well-educated, well-prepared workforce,” stated Sonia Perez, AT&T Louisiana State President. “More than at any time in history, it is critical that we invest in young people to develop a diverse talent pipeline with the skills to help society prosper. Through Aspire, we support programs that invest in students, especially those who need it the most, so they can walk across the graduation stage ready for their future.”

**About City Year**

*City Year is an education-focused organization founded in 1988 dedicated to helping students and schools succeed. City Year partners with public schools in 28 urban, high-poverty communities across the U.S. and through international affiliates in the U.K. and Johannesburg, South Africa. Diverse teams of City Year AmeriCorps members provide high-impact student, classroom and school-wide support, to help students stay in school and on track to graduate from high school, ready for college and career success. A proud member of the AmeriCorps national service network, City Year is made possible by support from the Corporation for National and Community Service, school district partnerships, and private philanthropy from corporations, foundations and individuals. Learn more at [cityyear.org](http://cityyear.org).*

**About Philanthropy & Social Innovation at AT&T**

*AT&T is committed to advancing education, strengthening communities and improving lives. Through its community initiatives, AT&T has a long history of investing in projects that create learning opportunities; promote academic and economic achievement; or address community needs. AT&T Aspire is AT&T’s signature philanthropic initiative that drives innovation in education by bringing diverse resources to bear on the issue including funding, technology, employee volunteerism, and mentoring. Through Aspire, we’ve passed the \$250 million mark on our plan to invest \$350 million in education from 2008-2017.*

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