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Reality Changers to Help Students in their Quest to Graduate with \$500,000 from AT&T

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

SAN DIEGO, California, November 18, 2016 —Reality Changers has been selected as one of 18 recipients nationwide to share in \$10 million from AT&T through the Aspire Connect to Success Competition due to its success supporting and motivating underserved students to stay in school and prepare for their next step in life. 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.

"From helping students apply to college and earn scholarships, to providing access to a network of alumni, Reality Changers shows low-income students that they can and should aim high," San Diego Mayor Kevin L. Faulconer said. "This generous contribution from AT&T will give youth the keys to unlock their potential and build a better future for all San Diegans."

"Too many young people struggle to get on the road to college and a career," said Assemblywoman Lorena Gonzalez. "Reality Changers is providing an onramp for students in our community, and supporters like AT&T are helping to ensure a new generation of college graduates in San Diego."

Aspire Connect to Success funding recipients deliver integrated student supports, focus on college and career preparation, and/or provide mentoring or peer-to-peer supports to help underserved students graduate from high school and college. Reality Changers' College Town program is helping more than 500 low-income, high-potential high school students over two academic years graduate high school on time and prepare for success in college and the workforce.

"Young people need a high school diploma to stay on track for college and career success," said Ignacio De La Torre, regional vice president of external affairs, AT&T. "And our company's and country's future is dependent on today's young people. Through Aspire, we



support programs like Reality Changers that invest in students, especially those who need it the most, so they can walk across the graduation stage ready for their future.”

Through a competitive request for proposal process, the 18 non-profits, including Reality Changers, were selected based on their effectiveness in helping students graduate ready for career and college. Selected programs use evidence-based approaches to serve students and are able to demonstrate quantitative results.

“College changes everything, especially for low-income youth,” said Christopher Yanov, founder & president, Reality Changers. “It not only transforms the lives of students and their families, but its economic and social impacts have the power to transform entire communities. We thank AT&T for its generous contribution, which will help us serve even more students in the program.”

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.