



## **City Year Cleveland 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.*

CLEVELAND, OH. Oct. 14, 2016 — Due to City Year Cleveland’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](#), our signature philanthropic initiative to help students succeed in school and beyond.

Aspire Connect to Success funding recipients deliver integrated student support, focus on college or career preparation, and/or provide mentoring or peer-to-peer supports to help underserved students graduate.

“City Year is a constant presence in our schools and they continue to work hand in hand with our educators in the Cleveland Metropolitan School District,” said Mayor Frank G. Jackson. “The City Year program not only positively impacts our schools, they also impact on our communities as a whole.”

City Year Cleveland works to bridge the gap in high-poverty communities between the support that students actually need, and what their schools are designed and resourced to provide. In doing so, they are helping to increase graduation rates across the country. Funds from the Aspire Connect to Success competition will support the AmeriCorps members at three high schools: Glenville, East Technical, and John Adams where over 800 students each year will be served.

“We are thrilled to be teaming up with AT&T once again as a part of the Aspire program,” said Toi D. Comer, interim executive director of City Year Cleveland. “We rely on companies like AT&T to help ensure that we can continue to serve students in a way that will impact them for years to come.”

Through a competitive request for proposal process, the 18 non-profits, including City Year Cleveland, 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.

“It’s critical that our young people receive a high school diploma to stay on track for college and career success,” said AT&T Ohio President Adam Grzybicki. “Our company’s future, as



well as the country's, is dependent on developing a talented workforce. 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.”

AT&T and City Year Cleveland will announce their collaboration at tomorrow's City Year Opening Day ceremony. Opening Day will serve as an opportunity for City Year AmeriCorps members to publicly show their commitment to the communities they serve and officially kick off their year of national service.

**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.

**For more information, contact:**

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