



## **Chicago High School Students to Access Internships & Mentors to Boost Graduation Rates, Through Support to Urban Alliance from AT&T**

*Urban Alliance is one of 18 Recipients of \$10 Million in Contributions to Programs Across U.S.*

**CHICAGO, IL. October 27, 2016** — AT&T is making a \$113,000 contribution to Urban Alliance to support paid internships, formal training and mentorship that will help Chicago high school students with fewer resources prepare for success in college and careers.

AT&T's contribution to Urban Alliance in Chicago is part of the organization's 2016-17 program kickoff in Chicago where students and their families learned more about the successful model – and where students were paired with their corporate mentors.

Urban Alliance was 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.

Through a competitive request for proposal process, the non-profits 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.

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.

“AT&T Aspire is our company's signature philanthropic program and a \$350 million commitment to education, designed to help students succeed in school, the workforce and in life,” said AT&T Illinois President Paul La Schiazza. “As part of AT&T Aspire, we are dedicated to supporting programs like Urban Alliance, because we recognize the importance of educational opportunity, and we want to help young learners access it. They are tomorrow's workers, dreamers and leaders.”

“Today, there are close to 6 million young people across the country who have failed to connect to school and work. Urban Alliance is working to change this. We're excited to work with AT&T to kick off our 5th year in Chicago and bring our proven<sup>[1]</sup> model to even more youth,” said Eshauna Smith, CEO, Urban Alliance.

<sup>[1]</sup> Randomized control trial conducted by Urban Institute, 2011-2016 found that : 1) Young men completing the High School Internship Program are 26 percentage points more likely to attend college than their peers; 2) Middle-tier students completing the High School Internship Program are 21 percentage points more likely to attend four-year colleges than their peers and; 3) Participation in the High School Internship Program has a positive, significant impact on youth's hard and soft skill comfort.

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

AT&T Inc. 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.

### **About Urban Alliance**

Urban Alliance empowers under-resourced youth to aspire, work, and succeed through paid internships, formal training, and mentorship. Since 1996, UA has placed more than 3,000 youth in professional internships and served an additional 15,000 through professional skill training workshops. Expanding to Chicago in 2012, close to 500 youth have completed the 10-month High School Internship Program. 100% of program graduates complete high school and 80% enrolled and have persisted in college. The Urban Alliance team continues to support its alumni beyond the program to ensure that they continue on pathways that will lead to rewarding careers and economic independence.

### **For more information, contact:**

Eric Robinson  
AT&T Public Affairs  
217.899.3434  
[eric.robinson@att.com](mailto:eric.robinson@att.com)