



City Year Washington, DC to Help Ballou High School Students Graduate from High School with \$250,000 from AT&T

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

WASHINGTON, DC, September 26, 2016 — AT&T volunteers today visited Ballou High School students, giving them an opportunity to learn more about what it takes to prepare for careers in technology and to excel at a company like AT&T.

During the event, LaTara Harris, AT&T's regional director for External Affairs, announced a \$250,000 contribution from AT&T to support the expansion of City Year Washington DC's Whole School Whole Child (WSWC) Program to Ballou High School through the [Aspire Connect to Success Competition](#).

Last week, during a special event to help kick off the new school year, AT&T joined the City Year DC corps members; John Davis, DCPS Chief of Schools (and soon-to-be Acting Chancellor of DC Public Schools); David Johns, Executive Director of White House Initiative on Educational Excellence for African Americans; Ballou High School students; community leaders; and other friends to highlight the contribution and AT&T's support of City Year Washington, DC's new programs at Ballou.

With the funds, 400 of the most highly at-risk students will receive individualized, case-managed services, assisting them to graduate high school on time prepared for success in college and the workforce.

City Year Washington, DC is among 18 non-profits to share in \$10 million through the [Aspire Connect to Success Competition](#).

Hundreds of organizations applied. It was a rigorous and competitive process. The awardees, including City Year Washington, DC support and motivate underserved students to stay in school and prepare for their next step in life.

AT&T funds the competition through [AT&T Aspire](#), our signature philanthropic initiative to help students thrive in school and beyond.

Today, about 1-in-5 students don't graduate high school on time. There are persistent gaps for students of color, students with disabilities, English-language learners and low-income students.¹

¹ [2016 Building a Grad Nation Report](#)



“Students need a high school diploma to achieve success. Our support of City Year Washington, DC will help more students at Ballou High School stay in school and prepare for their future careers,” said Denis Dunn, president, AT&T District of Columbia. “City Year Washington, DC was among the winners this year because they have demonstrated their effectiveness in helping students graduate ready for college or career. They each use evidence-based approaches and can prove they make an impact for their students.”

LaTara Harris, AT&T’s regional director for External Affairs attended the kickoff event. She also will lead a special event with students at Ballou on September 26, giving them an opportunity to learn more about what it takes to prepare for a career in technology and to excel at a company like AT&T.

Aspire Connect to Success funding recipients deliver a range of programs. Their focus includes integrated student supports, college or career preparation, and mentoring or peer-to-peer relationships.

Jeff Franco, VP & Executive Director shared: “City Year Washington, DC is honored to have the support of AT&T and we are ready to put their generous gift to work. For many years we have worked in the elementary and middle schools that feed into Ballou High School to ensure students are prepped and ready to succeed. This funding will make certain that the students at Ballou receive the crucial support that City Year provides to stay on track and graduate ready for college or the workforce. It is a crucial piece of the puzzle of success to these students and this community.”

“Three years ago, our dream of a brand new school came true, “ said Yetunde Reeves, Principal at Ballou High School. “With the announcement of this substantial gift from AT&T, another dream comes true: to have City Year working in Ballou. One of our teachers, Ms. Cartegena, is a City Year alumni and has been a champion for City Year to partner with Ballou. We were excited to have been selected this year. Their partnership and presence in our school provides our students with the support to thrive and provides our teachers with an in-class support. Thank you to AT&T for believing in City Year, in our community, and most importantly in our students.”

Previous AT&T Aspire competitive funding recipients are making a difference.

While the results continue to grow, data from 2014 awardees show positive outcomes. Aspire students had higher attendance in grades 9-12. And they were more likely to graduate in grades 10-12, than their peers.

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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