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## **Promesa Boyle Heights to Help Students in their Quest to Graduate with \$750,000 from AT&T to Proyecto Pastoral**

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

**Los Angeles, California, January 6, 2017** — Due to Proyecto Pastoral and its partners' success supporting and motivating underserved students to stay in school and prepare for their next step in life through the Promesa Boyle Heights initiative, 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.

"Promesa Boyle Heights has helped lift up an entire community --- keeping students from falling through the cracks, growing economic opportunity, and giving our young people a safe and encouraging place to pursue their dreams," said Los Angeles Mayor Eric Garcetti. "This is an incredibly deserving program, and I thank AT&T for helping to put students on a path to amazing success."

"Preparing young people to succeed will help make our communities and California stronger," said California Senate President pro Tempore Kevin de León. "I thank Proyecto Pastoral, AT&T and all the community partners who have come together to support our youth through Promesa Boyle Heights."

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. This is the third time Proyecto Pastoral has received support from AT&T. In total AT&T has contributed more than \$1.3 Million to the organization, which is having remarkable success boosting graduation rates and improving student outcomes through the Promesa Boyle Heights initiative.

"I want to thank AT&T for their generous contributions over the years to Proyecto Pastoral's Promesa Boyle Heights initiative," said California Assemblymember Miguel Santiago. "In just a few short years, we've witnessed the impact at Mendez High with the dramatic raising of graduation rates. We are all partnering to brighten the future for our next generation and that is something we can all be proud of."



"Once defined by our struggling schools, gang violence, and dilapidated infrastructure, Boyle Heights is becoming a model for how residents and organizations can come together to address critical issues in the community," said Cynthia Sanchez, Chief Executive Officer Proyecto Pastoral. "Proyecto Pastoral and the Promesa Boyle Heights initiative is helping in this transformation, and we could not do it without support from organizations like AT&T."

Through a competitive request for proposal process, the 18 non-profits, including Proyecto Pastoral, 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.

"Improving education and developing the 21<sup>st</sup> century workforce takes corporations working together with community organizations and government to grow programs that work," said Ken McNeely, President, AT&T California. "AT&T is proud to support Proyecto Pastoral and invest more than \$1.3 million in students and future leaders in Boyle Heights."

AT&T's latest contribution will help Proyecto Pastoral further expanded the Promesa Boyle Heights initiative, which provides 2,300 opportunity youth with tiered supports and high-intensity academic and wellness interventions to help students graduate high school and create pathways to higher education and 21st century careers.

Promesa Boyle Heights is a collaborative of more than 20 organizations and schools led by parents and students with intensive support from Proyecto Pastoral. Since the initiative began in 2011, graduation rates at Mendez High School have risen from 34% to a remarkable 96% for the class of 2016. The initiative has also helped to grow graduation rates at Roosevelt High School since it expanded on the campus last year and was recently implemented at Hollenbeck High School. More information on Proyecto Pastoral and the Promesa Boyle Heights initiative is available at: [www.promesaboyleheights.org](http://www.promesaboyleheights.org) and [www.proyectopastoral.org](http://www.proyectopastoral.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.