



AT&T and Rincon Tribe Celebrate Opening of New Connected Learning Center

First AT&T Connected Learning Center on tribal lands in the U.S. will provide the community with free access to high-speed connectivity, computers and digital learning resources

VALLEY CENTER, Calif., Feb. 23, 2023

What's the news? AT&T* is opening a new Connected Learning Center inside the Rincon Education Department located on the Rincon Reservation in Valley Center, CA to provide internet access and education tools to those who face connectivity barriers.

This will be the first AT&T Connected Learning Center on tribal lands in the U.S., the fifth that AT&T has opened in California, and our 21st center nationwide. The center will allow students from tribal communities to get online, parents to look for jobs and the community to access resources to close in on the barriers of the digital divide.

The opening of the center is part of the [AT&T Connected Learning](#) initiative and our \$2 billion [commitment from 2021 to 2023](#) to address the [digital divide](#) through internet accessibility, affordability and safe adoption in underserved communities. In addition, the AT&T Foundation has made a \$50,000 contribution towards Rincon Education Department programming.

Why is this important? Once they leave their school site, students on the Tribal Nations in the Valley Center region have limited access to the internet, computers or resources needed to benefit from the online world, part of the issue known as the digital divide. In fact, over 30 percent of the population on tribal lands do not have access to broadband infrastructure that provides minimally adequate speeds.¹

This new center will serve students, as well as their parents and the larger community, who will be able to get online, find educational and employment resources and much more. The center will enhance opportunities for residents on tribal lands, who can pursue remote education, apply online for jobs and access telehealth resources without having to leave their community.



“We are very excited to have the Connected Learning Center located right on our reservation,” **stated Chairman Bo Mazzetti of the Rincon Tribe.** “This is an absolute dream come true for our seniors, youth and the many tribal members who for many years did not have access to technology for the use of gathering information. This center will now enable our tribal members and lineals to have limitless learning and exciting possibilities through the power of technology.”

In all, AT&T plans to launch more than [50 total centers](#) across the country. The centers will be housed within local non-profit organizations supporting communities in need. The goal of the centers is to encourage the community to get connected through free access to the internet and computers and education resources that teach the value of broadband and how to use it safely and effectively.

“Our investment in the AT&T Connected Learning Center at the Rincon Education Center directly reflects our commitment to get more unserved and underserved communities connected to the benefits of broadband,” **said Marc Blakeman, AT&T California State President.** “The center will give Rincon and nearby tribal families access to many digital resources including virtual mentoring and tutoring to help them succeed in digital school and job environments. AT&T is committed to advance digital access across California and will continue to invest in community programs and services that expand access to high-speed fiber internet to more Californians.”

Tools and resources to benefit tribal communities

The new center will help to bridge the digital divide by providing free access to a range of digital resources all under one roof. This includes high-speed AT&T Fiber internet, Wi-Fi, computers and free education resources including [The Achievery](#), a digital learning platform created by AT&T, as well as [digital literacy courses](#) and workshops created with the Public Library Association.

As an added level of support, AT&T employees are taking an active role in the Connected Learning Centers through AT&T Believes, our company-wide, localized volunteerism movement. We are providing onsite and virtual mentoring and tutoring for students and families to promote long-term education success and digital engagement.

As part of its ongoing commitment to championing digital inclusion for underserved communities, Dell Technologies donated Dell OptiPlex computers and Dell monitors which feature integrated audio and webcams to support virtual learning. World Wide Technology is the largest minority supplier of IT services globally and is providing



configuration and installation services. As a black-owned company, WWT is a part of AT&T's Supplier Diversity Initiative and in collaboration with AT&T supports providing connectivity to all, including small and medium businesses, recreational facilities, educational institutions, and underserved communities.

How else are we supporting?

Separately, AT&T is working with the Rincon Band of Luiseño Indians on a multi-step process, the first step of which is to design and engineer a fiber network on its tribal lands that would connect more than 400 homes on the reservation to reliable high-speed, broadband Internet.

AT&T is investing in our fiber network in California to meet the demands for reliable, high-speed connections today – and in the future. We see fiber as an asset that can provide more educational opportunities, enhance and improve access to healthcare, and strengthen the ways the community can connect with one another.

Additionally, the AT&T Foundation has granted \$100,000 to the California Tribal Chairpersons Association to support their work around the critical needs of California tribes.

We offer affordable internet options

AT&T is committed to connecting more Americans to reliable, high-quality internet in several ways, including expanding and upgrading our network and participating in the federal Affordable Connectivity Program (ACP). The ACP provides eligible households with a benefit of up to \$30 a month (up to \$75 a month on qualifying tribal lands) to reduce the cost of broadband service and can be applied to AT&T Fiber, where available. This means that ACP-eligible customers who reside on tribal lands can sign up for Internet 500 at no cost to them, or Internet 1000 for just \$5/month.

Alternatively, eligible customers can use it toward [Access from AT&T](#), offering **internet speeds of up to 100Mbps, for \$0** after the ACP benefit is applied. After confirming [ACP eligibility](#), those who qualify can go to att.com/getacp or call us at 866-986-0963 to sign up for service with your ACP application ID.

We are expanding our network

Across California, we continue to invest in bringing fiber and connectivity. From 2019-2021, we [expanded coverage](#) and improved connectivity by investing nearly \$8.3 billion in our wireless and wireline networks in California. AT&T Fiber covers nearly ten million fiber strand miles in the state of California.²



Learn more at [AT&T Connected Learning](#).

¹ <https://www.whitehouse.gov/briefing-room/statements-releases/2022/08/11/fact-sheet-biden-harris-administration-brings-high-speed-affordable-internet-to-tribal-communities/>

² As of October 31, 2022

About Rincon Tribe

The Rincon Band of Luiseño Indians is a sovereign government recognized by the United States of America. The Tribe owns Harrah's Resort Southern California and uses profits from this and other commercial enterprises to provide government services including police and environmental enforcement; economic development; healthcare and culture programs; and a tribal court. At no cost to taxpayers, Rincon's public safety operations respond to emergencies in the neighboring communities, with more than a majority of calls generating outside the Reservation. Rincon's tribal enterprises are significant contributors to the North San Diego County economy through job creation, tax generation, purchase of local products and services and charitable donations. www.rincon-nsn.gov.

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

We're committed to advancing education, creating opportunities, strengthening communities and improving lives. As part of our companywide \$2 billion commitment from 2021 to 2023 to address the digital divide, we launched AT&T Connected Learning to invest in connectivity and technology, digital literacy and education solutions to help today's learners succeed inside and outside of the classroom. Since 2008, we've committed to programs that help millions of students across all 50 states and around the world, particularly those in underserved communities.

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