



ASPIRA to Help NJ Students Graduate With Help of \$333,000 Contribution from AT&T
One of 18 Recipients of \$10 Million in Contributions to Programs Across U.S.

Paterson, NJ, March 14, 2017 —Students at the School of Government and Public Administration at Eastside in Paterson, NJ; Dickinson High School in Jersey City; and James Ferris High School in Jersey City will get more help staying on track for graduation thanks to a contribution from AT&T to ASPIRA Association Inc.

The contribution was highlighted today during a special event at the School of Government and Public Administration at Eastside in Paterson that featured students, school leaders, local legislators, and executives from ASPIRA of NJ and AT&T.

AT&T awarded \$750,000 to ASPIRA Association Inc., to expand its ASPIRA Youth Development Program (YDP) which serves predominantly Latino students in grades 9-12 in several communities across the country including Paterson and Jersey City. ASPIRA's program provides high school students with afterschool academic and social support programs and leadership opportunities aimed to help students graduate from high school on time, prepared for success in college and the workforce.

Of AT&T's \$750,000 contribution to ASPIRA Association Inc., \$333,000 helps ASPIRA of NJ reach nearly 700 students over two years.

"On behalf of our Board of Directors and the communities we serve, ASPIRA Inc. of NJ is proud to benefit from the AT&T Aspire award which helps us provide 680 Paterson and Jersey City students with the resources necessary to build strong educational foundations to become tomorrow's leaders starting today," said Carlos Valentin, Jr., Executive Director, ASPIRA Inc. of NJ. "We applaud AT&T's commitment and are sincerely thankful to J. Michael Schweder, President, AT&T Mid-Atlantic Region and the entire AT&T family for this opportunity and look forward to an impactful and lasting partnership."

ASPIRA Association Inc. was selected as one of 18 recipients nationwide that will share in the \$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.

"Young people need a high school diploma to stay on track for college and career success. Our company's future, as well as the country's, is dependent on today's young people," said J. Michael Schweder, President, AT&T Mid-Atlantic Region. "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."

"Our school district's mission is to prepare all children for success in college and career," said Dr. Donnie Evans, Superintendent of Paterson Public Schools. "As one of the most diverse school districts in the country, we have welcomed the support of the ASPIRA Youth Development Program



and we want to thank AT&T for their generous contribution to ASPIRA for use at our School of Government and Public Administration at Eastside. This funding will help us to continue with critical services for our high school students such as arranging college tours and assistance with college applications.”

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.

The 18 non-profits, including ASPIRA Association Inc., were selected based on their effectiveness in helping students graduate from high school ready for career or college. Selected programs use evidence based approaches to serve students and are able to demonstrate quantitative results.

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:

Name: Dan Langan
Phone: 717-215-5296
Email: dl2380@att.com

Name: Terry Corallo
Phone: 973-321-2430
Email: tcorallo@paterson.k12.nj.us