



News Release

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Workforce Development, Inc. Receives \$15,000 AT&T Donation to Expand Job Training for Youth

*AT&T Funds Will Support Youth Scholarships &
Help Expand Program to Serve 60 More Youth*

ROCHESTER, Thursday, October 1, 2015 – Workforce Development, Inc. (WDI) has received a \$15,000 [AT&T*](#) donation to expand its job training programs for underserved youth. The donation was announced during a meeting of the Workforce Development Board in Rochester today.

The AT&T funds will be used to support youth scholarships and help expand WDI's job training programs to serve 60 additional youth. The goal is to prepare underserved youth, specifically youth from minority and low-income families, out-of-school youth and youth with disabilities, for meaningful employment.

"Through our job training programs, our mission is to help prepare the underserved youth of Southeastern Minnesota to gain the life and work skills they need to have a successful career," said Jinny Rietmann, youth programs coordinator for WDI. "We are thrilled to receive this donation from AT&T to help us not only offer new youth scholarships, but also expand our reach to serve another 60 youth by next summer."

With the AT&T donation, WDI plans to establish new youth scholarships that will provide supportive services many youth in their job training programs need to be successful in finding and maintaining employment. Those services may include transportation assistance for job interviews, work clothing, and supplies for work or school.

"We are very proud to support Workforce Development and its mission of providing job training to the youth of Southeastern Minnesota," said Paul Weirtz, president of AT&T Minnesota. "This is a great organization that is making a positive difference for so many underserved youth in the community."

WDI's job training and employment programs focus on both life and work skills, as well as career preparation. The goal is to help youth complete high school coursework and align their skills and interests with meaningful employment. The program covers a 10 county area.

“Workforce Development, Inc. helps our young people develop critical job and life skills and helps them find stable employment,” said State Senator Carla Nelson. “It is great to see companies like AT&T supporting local efforts to develop our future workforce and leaders.”

WDI is an independent, non-profit agency with a long history of serving the needs of job seekers and employers in Southeast Minnesota. WDI is dedicated to developing and advancing the workforce to meet the current and future needs of the communities it serves.

“Through its job training programs, Workforce Development is preparing our youth to be successful in whatever career they may choose,” said State Senator David Senjem. “It takes a community, including support from local businesses like AT&T, to help develop our young people into the leaders of the future.”

As a company, AT&T is committed to advancing education, strengthening communities and improving lives. Through its philanthropic initiatives, the company has a long history of supporting projects that create learning opportunities, promote academic achievement and address community needs.

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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. In 2013, more than \$130 million was contributed or directed through corporate-, employee-, social investment- and AT&T Foundation-giving programs. AT&T Aspire is AT&T's signature education initiative that drives innovation in education by bringing diverse resources to bear on the issue including funding, technology, employee volunteerism, and mentoring.

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