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AFT Michigan
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Contacts:

David Hecker, AFT Michigan President, 313-204-6115

Michigan Teachers Praise AT&T for Helping Students Stay in School, Compete for 21st Century Jobs

DETROIT – The **American Federation of Teachers Michigan (AFT Michigan)** today praised AT&T Michigan for its partnering with Michigan schools to help high school students stay in school, succeed in the classroom and compete for 21st century jobs.

AT&T has provided grants totaling \$400,000 to Michigan students to help expose them to jobs in the hi-tech telecommunications field, under a national project begun in 2008.

“AT&T Michigan is setting the standard when it comes to partnering with students and helping them prepare for 21st century jobs,” **AFT Michigan President David Hecker** said. “Michigan’s future depends on investments like the one AT&T has made in our students. These are the kinds of programs that can help us compete globally, and AT&T deserves our thanks for working with teachers and giving students the tools they need to succeed.”

In 2008, AT&T launched AT&T Aspire, a \$100 million multi-year education initiative to help stem the U.S. high school dropout crisis. The program, which is AT&T’s most significant education initiative to date, is one of the largest corporate commitments ever to address high school success and workforce readiness.

In its first year, the program supported four primary components: grants to schools and nonprofits, dropout prevention summits organized by America’s Promise Alliance, dropout prevention research and a companywide job shadowing program – which, in its first year, has already enabled more than 13,000 students in 100 cities to shadow AT&T employees.

In Michigan, AT&T provided Aspire grants totaling more than \$400,000 connected nearly 300 Michigan students to job shadow with AT&T employees.

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AFT Michigan is a union of 35,000-members working in PreK-12 and intermediate school districts, community colleges, universities, and local government. The 94 locals extend as far south as Monroe and north to Whitefish Township in the Upper Peninsula.