

AT&T Aspire: The Middle College at UNCG

Graduating Students, One Community at a Time



Program Description:

Guilford County Schools, the third largest school district in North Carolina, **serves more than 73,000 students at 124 schools.** The school district is a national leader in providing specialized schools and instructional programs, including non-traditional high schools that meet diverse student needs.

In the fall of 2011, Guilford County Schools teamed with the University of North Carolina at Greensboro (UNCG) to form The Middle College at UNCG, a non-traditional high school for students interested in health, medical and youth development service careers who are disengaged, not reaching their full academic potential, or at risk of dropping out. The school is adding a new class of ninth-graders each year to reach a maximum enrollment of 200 students in 2014-15. The middle college high school allows students to attend class on a college campus while taking honors-level classes. Students may also earn up to two years of college credit and take Advanced Placement courses.

Students in this small school setting are accountable not only to teachers, but also to each other and their mentors, creating a web of social and emotional support that helps students feel a sense of belonging and an understanding that they are valued members of their community.



The course of study also includes weekly career-focused learning and internship opportunities in partnership with the business community. AT&T's Aspire contribution will be used to provide essential materials and supplies for The Middle College at UNCG and fund student transportation costs during the school's expansion.

- The Middle College at UNCG is **one of seven middle college high schools** in North Carolina's Guilford County Schools.
- In 2012, Guilford County Schools achieved an **84.5 percent four-year graduation rate**, and **six schools had 100 percent** of their seniors graduate on time. Three of those schools are middle colleges.



Students:
150



Funding:
\$100,000

"Since my plan is to pursue a career in sports medicine, and the Middle College at UNCG has a focus in the health science field, I know I made the right choice. Being at the middle college, I am getting a chance to really mature into a responsible student, which is going to benefit me in the future once I get to the college level."

Nickolas Moore, sophomore at The Middle College at UNCG