



# Graduating Students, One Community at a Time

## Program Description:

Auburn University's Building Individual Capacity for Success (BICS) program is based on the theory that at-risk students disengaged or disengaging from their school communities are at risk of dropping out of high school. BICS was implemented to address this problem by incorporating the following program components: professional development, mentoring and advocacy, leadership development, service learning, individualized goal setting and action research to address goals/monitoring of progress and college/career readiness options and enrichment.

AT&T funding will support 200 at-risk students at four high schools. These funds will assist Auburn University in reaching their overarching program goals of more than 75 percent of BICS students progressing to the next grade level and remaining in school each year of the programming, at least 60 percent of BICS students developing more positive, trusting relationships with their peers and adults, a 50 percent decrease in student behavioral and disciplinary referrals for new students and at least a 10 percent increase in daily attendance rates.

AT&T has funded this program in the past. Program revisions have been made based on lessons learned and include a) the addition of larger student groups at four high schools (an increase of 30 to 50 per school), b) the requirement to have at least two local advisors, c) offering professional development to core groups of 8-10 teachers per school along with the advisors to increase the capacity of schools to address the needs of at-risk youth, d) a stronger emphasis on college/career readiness, e) elimination of the global awareness focus which has been replaced by additional awareness of cultural and academic enrichment possibilities within the region. and f) having graduate students and project co-directors meet with students, advisors and teachers regularly in their schools to supplement locally held programming for students.



**Students:**  
200



**Funding:**  
\$200,000

- The Truman Pierce Institute is a part of the College of Education of Auburn University.
- It functions under the auspices of the university's historic commitment as a land grant university to advance the welfare of humanity through education.
- The Institute's mission is to improve society and the lives of people by providing resources and services to schools, organizations and communities through teaching, research and outreach scholarship.

"The BICS program has helped me think about college after high school. The teachers have helped me be a role model and make positive decisions."

A BICS student