

## AT&T Aspire: Connecting Our Youth

- AT&T Aspire, a \$100 million initiative to promote high school success and workforce readiness, includes the AT&T/JA Worldwide Job Shadow Initiative — a landmark commitment to inspire students to succeed in school, leading to success in careers and in life.
- An alarming number of students with passing grades are dropping out of high school. They simply don't see the relevance of their school work today to their future life success.
- AT&T is working with Junior Achievement to execute a five-year national job shadow initiative, giving 100,000 students a chance to see firsthand the types of careers are within their reach and job skills they will need to succeed.
- More than 23,000 students in over 200 cities have participated since the initiative began in 2008.
- The AT&T effort is the largest corporate job shadowing partnership that Junior Achievement has launched.
- Since 2008, AT&T employees have provided high school students with the opportunity to experience the working world, matching employee volunteers with students to showcase the careers and job skills that are possible with a successful education. Since the Job Shadow Initiative started in 2008 through fall of 2009, employees have spent close to 92,000 volunteer hours helping students.

- AT&T is strongly positioned to inspire tomorrow's workforce through job shadowing. The AT&T workforce includes some of the best and brightest in their fields across a diverse set of career categories.
- In early 2008, AT&T Chairman and CEO Randall Stephenson was the first to be shadowed as part of the effort with Junior Achievement.
- Findings from a report by the JA Evaluation and Training institute surveying students who participated in the first year of the AT&T/JA Worldwide Job Shadow Initiative show the program is making an impact and is changing attitudes about staying in school:
  - Ninety-nine percent of students who participated in the program felt that it was important to graduate from high school.
  - Ninety-three percent of students felt that their ability to set goals had improved as a result of participating in Job Shadow.
  - Ninety-eight percent of students agreed that doing well in school will help them achieve their career goals.
  - Ninety percent of students felt that the experience made them more aware of career options.
- For more information on job shadowing, visit www.att.com/jobshadow and http://www.ja.org/ programs/programs\_job\_shadow.shtml

