AT&T Aspire: Connecting Our Youth

100 Dropout Prevention Summits

• AT&T Aspire, a $100 million initiative to address high school success and workforce readiness, is helping to underwrite 100 Dropout Prevention summits across the country.

• AT&T is committing $500,000 to support the summits, which are led by America’s Promise Alliance and will be held in all 50 states.

• The summits will bring together mayors, governors, business owners, child advocates, school administrators, students and parents to develop workable solutions and action plans for improving our nation’s alarmingly low graduation rates.

• Specifically, the summits will serve as a call to action, with the goal of increasing the high school graduation rate across the United States. They will have an emphasis on ensuring that young people are ready for college, work and life.

• Each summit will also include a youth voice and youth leadership roles, including summit planning, visible speaking roles and follow-up activities.

• At each individual summit, the four priorities that will be stressed are:
  – Engaging key constituencies. This includes elected officials, educators, administrators, students and leaders from business and philanthropy.
  – Raising awareness. This includes engaging participants, addressing local youth needs and discussing possible solutions.
  – Setting policy priorities. Local communities will use the 10-point plan identified in the seminal educational study “The Silent Epidemic” as a guideline.
  – Committing to the plan. This includes identifying post-summit actions that will achieve measurable results.

• A comprehensive evaluation plan has been developed and includes:
  – Pre-summit monthly reports to track the planning process.
  – A post-summit plan — which includes key successes, next steps, list of attendees and a financial report — to be provided within 10 days.
  – An action plan, which uses the aforementioned 10-point plan, which will be developed within 90 days.

• For more information on AT&T Aspire and the America’s Promise Alliance summits, visit www.att.com/education and www.americaspromise.org.