

Press Release



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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AT&T Contribution Supports Newark Museum Explorers Program

NEWARK: Thanks to a generous contribution from AT&T, the Newark Museum will continue to provide inner city youth with a unique learning experience built around its art and science collections.

The Museum's Explorers Program is designed to equip students from the Newark area with the necessary presentation, teamwork, research and technology skills that will give them an edge in their academic and professional lives. The \$10,000 AT&T contribution will provide funding for year-round learning experiences for 30 to 40 students in grades 10 through 12. Since its inception 21 years ago, more than 230 students have graduated from the Explorers Program, which serves youth from their sophomore through senior years. Over the past 10 years, 100% of students graduating from the program went on to institutions of higher education such as Carnegie Mellon University, Parsons School of Design, Wellesley College and Rutgers University. Many alumni return to work at the Museum as part-time and full-time staff.

"It's so important for students to have strong STEAM skills so they're well prepared for whatever they choose to do after graduation from high school. The Explorers Program has a long and successful history, and we're proud to help them offer Newark's students such a unique learning opportunity," said J. Michael Schweder, president, AT&T Mid Atlantic.

The Explorers curriculum includes research projects, museum-based internships, field trips, activities that focus on STEAM (Science, Technology, Engineering, Arts and Mathematics) education, and workshops on subjects including public speaking, financial literacy, etiquette, SAT preparation and college planning.

“This contribution from AT&T makes it possible for us to continue using our collections as a catalyst for cultivating community-minded and active citizens, creating scientifically and artistically literate students, and instilling crucial job skills in them,” “ said Steven Kern, the Museum’s Director and CEO.

The Explorers program began in 1995 with a start-up grant under the YouthAlive! Project, a national initiative funded by the Dewitt Wallace Readers Digest Fund in partnership with the Association of Science-Technology Centers (ASTC). The initiative called for the development of programs in museums that could provide positive work and learning opportunities for young people.

Through the years, the Explorers Program has evolved into a successful college and job preparedness program that provides invaluable education, employment and mentoring opportunities to urban youth. Encouraged by the Museum, partnerships with some of the area's finest art, academic, and scientific institutions provide challenging educational experiences for students. Working both independently and with their peers, students develop and refine problem solving, teamwork and leadership skills.

For further information about the Museum’s Explorers Program, visit www.newarkmuseum.org.

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