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AT&T AND SUMMER SEARCH PARTNER TO NARROW THE OPPORTUNITY GAP FOR YOUNG MEN OF COLOR

*Contribution supports new models to steward black and Latino male students toward
college graduation*

SEATTLE—February 20, 2016—Summer Search, a national youth development nonprofit organization, today received a \$437,000 contribution from AT&T to further enhance outreach and enrollment strategies to young men of color in the Seattle region. The collaboration aims to impact long-term college graduation outcomes for this important population.

The funding will support the design, management and implementation of a 2-year program at three targeted pilot sites—Seattle, Boston and North San Francisco Bay; Seattle is the first city to pilot the initiative. Through key program enhancements, Summer Search aims to increase the number of Black and Latino male high school students referred to, and enrolled in, its program; and to increase the retention rates of males of color in the program through their senior year in high school.

“This is real innovation that supports AT&T’s goal to help all students achieve college success—regardless of race, age, gender, income or zip code,” said Bob Bass, President, Washington State AT&T. “We partner with organizations like Summer Search to help make that happen and to build up our next generation of leaders.”

In a recent report, the Schott Foundation for Public Education found that young Black men have the lowest four-year high school graduation rates in 35 of the 48 states, and the graduation gap between white and black male students has increased to 21 percent. Additionally, the National Center for Education Statistics found that Black and Latino men have the lowest college graduation rates of all race and genders. This leaves a gap in future contributions to society and challenges upward mobility for these young men.

To serve young males of color more effectively and expand their reach, Summer Search will utilize the support from AT&T to accomplish three main objectives:

- Improve outreach by deepening current school partnerships and establishing new relationships with community- and faith-based organizations
- Introduce new parental engagement strategies to deepen familial participation in students college access and success
- Build capacity to integrate and manage volunteers in the enhanced programming, especially for Summer Search alumni who are males of color.

“The team here in Seattle is excited to test new partnership and engagement strategies to achieve better outcomes for our next class of students,” said Deidre McCormack Martin, executive director of Summer Search Seattle. “Summer Search is committed to prioritizing services to young men of color and with AT&T’s support we can deliver on that promise to provide more Black and Latino males with additional resources and new relationships to become college-educated leaders who give back to their families and communities.”

Since establishing a gender balance goal as part of its 5-year organizational strategic plan, Summer Search has increased the proportion of young men of color served nationally in the program by seven percent in the last three years.

AT&T’s support is part of [AT&T Aspire](#), the company’s signature philanthropic initiative that drives innovation in education to promote student success in school and beyond. Through Aspire, AT&T invests in tools and organizations, like Summer Search, to equip all students, regardless of their background, with the skills and tools they need to succeed.

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About Summer Search

Summer Search is a national youth development nonprofit organization. We work with low-income high school students to transform what they believe is possible for themselves. We help students in seven cities across the country develop the skills and character traits they need to become college-educated leaders who give back to their families and communities. Learn more at www.summersearch.org

About Philanthropy & Social Innovation at AT&T

AT&T Inc. is committed to advancing education, strengthening communities and improving lives. Through its community initiatives, AT&T has a long history of investing in projects that create learning opportunities; promote academic and economic achievement; or address community needs. AT&T Aspire is AT&T’s signature philanthropic initiative that drives innovation in education by bringing diverse resources to bear on the issue including funding, technology, employee volunteerism, and mentoring. Through Aspire, we’ve passed the \$250 million mark on our plan to invest \$350 million in education from 2008-2017.