

## **PRESS RELEASE**

America Connects Consortium at  
Education Development Center, Inc.  
55 Chapel Street, Newton, MA 02458

Contact:  
Wendy Rivenburgh  
(617) 618-2159  
wrivenburgh@edc.org

### **AT&T Young Leaders Program Recognizes 10 Young People For Leadership and Technology Skills**

Newton, MA -- (June 8, 2001) -- The first ever class of AT&T Young Leaders has been selected to participate in a new program launched by the America Connects Consortium with the generous support of the AT&T Foundation. The AT&T Young Leaders Program is an innovative youth development pilot, premised on the potential for new technologies to help young people cultivate their leadership skills and serve their communities.

“We know that there are extraordinary young people using community technology centers to learn, develop their artistic skills, express themselves, seek out new ideas, and contribute to their communities,” says Laura Breeden, director of the America Connects Consortium. “The AT&T Foundation has given us the opportunity to identify and work directly with a diverse group of teenagers in less advantaged communities who are making a difference in their families, schools, and neighborhoods.”

Marilyn Reznick, Vice President, Education Program, at the AT&T Foundation, stresses the value of this kind of work: “The AT&T Young Leaders Program is one example of how we are carrying out our mission to educate, enrich, engage, and empower the communities served by AT&T.”

The ten young people chosen as AT&T Young Leaders are Jacquelin Lattiffah Al-Ghamdi de Pena of Sunnyside, Washington; Ronelle Barrett of Scranton, Pennsylvania; Xavier Carr of Westampton, New Jersey; Aaron Dilyou of Salt Lake City; Abigail Garrett of Altamont, Kansas; Gussie Pettis of Chicago; Hope Samuel of Mattapan, Massachusetts; Tiffany Spriggs of Bronx, New York; Todd Tullis of Columbia, South Carolina; and Linsey Whittaker of Miami.

The program will host its kick-off event next week at the Community Technology Centers' Network Annual Conference, in San Diego, California, and continue throughout the summer, with the young people communicating online from their local community technology centers. The structured program of leadership development activities culminates in an online panel, sponsored by the America Connects Consortium, on Youth as Leaders in September 2001.

The America Connects Consortium (<http://www.americaconnects.net>) is a collaboration of eight partners and allied organizations who are working together to bring information, training, technical assistance, public attention, and new resources to community technology centers across the country. The Consortium is funded by a \$2 million contract with the Office of Vocational and Adult Education at the U.S. Department of Education.

The AT&T Foundation (<http://www.att.com/foundation/>) invests globally in projects that are at the intersection of community needs and AT&T's business interests. Emphasis is placed on programs that serve the needs of people in communities where AT&T has a significant business presence, initiatives that use technology in innovative ways, and programs in which AT&T employees are actively involved as contributors or volunteers.