

PRESS ADVISORY



Contact: Sean Martin, Manager,
Sorenson Technology Center
855 West California Ave
Salt Lake City, UT 84104

Phone: (801) 974-2420
Fax: (801) 974-2401
Email: sean.martin@ci.slc.ut.us

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Glendale Teenager Receives National Recognition, Heads for Leadership Conference *Sorenson Multi-Cultural Center's Community Technology Center sparks opportunity for participant, Aaron Dilyou*

SALT LAKE CITY – Local teenager Aaron Dilyou began utilizing resources at the Sorenson Technology Center in the in the fall of 2000. A junior at East high school, he began researching educational opportunities on the Internet during open access time at the Center. Using the Center an average of three times a week, Aaron recently applied for - and was accepted into a fashion design institute in Los Angeles upon his high school graduation. Recognizing Aaron's future potential, The Sorenson Technology Center's staff nominated Aaron for acceptance in a new youth leadership program sponsored by The America Connects Consortium (ACC) and the AT&T Foundation.

“Aaron has been our most regular youth participant. He maintains a positive outlook and is always available to help others in the computer lab, both young and old. He has utilized the computers in many ways – researching scholarship opportunities, writing essays and poetry,

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and designing his own page. Outside the center, Aaron is actively involved in United National Indian Tribal Youth (UNITY)” said Sean Martin, Manager of the Technology Center.

Aaron was selected to be one of only 10 teenagers nationwide to be awarded an all expense paid trip and a \$500 honorarium. The program will host its kick-off event this week at the *Community Technology Centers' Network Annual Conference* in San Diego, California. Following the meeting, Aaron will participate in online activities during the summer of 2001 using the Sorenson Technology Center, culminating in an ACC Online Panel on Youth as Leaders in September 2001.

“This great opportunity is a result of Aaron’s determination and Salt Lake City’s commitment to providing innovative programs for young people. These programs are reducing crime, building better lives and creating safer communities,” said Mayor Rocky Anderson. “Participating in this program will expose Aaron to other young people who have demonstrated leadership in their communities -- greatly strengthening his experience and opening doors for potential higher educational opportunities.”

Located in the Glendale neighborhood of Salt Lake City, The *Sorenson Multi-Cultural Center* has committed to making its Community Technology Center a valuable asset for neighborhood residents. People of all ages and abilities can utilize the center to learn about computers, use the Internet, explore new careers, further their education, or develop technology skills. As a member of *Community Technology Centers' Network (CTCNet)*, The Sorenson Technology

Center offers free public Internet access, computer based youth activities and adult computer literacy courses – helping all participants gain personal skills and self-confidence.

For more information on Aaron, please email him at Azzerae_Araujo@hotmail.com