

Press Release

NEWS RELEASE

For Immediate Release:

April 21, 2016

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AT&T ASPIRE AND JUNIOR ACHIEVEMENT OF GREATER ST. LOUIS TEAM UP TO MENTOR ST. LOUIS AREA STUDENTS

Chesterfield, MO April 20, 2016 — Over 120 students from Bayless High School participated in the AT&T/JA Finance Park program on April 19 at the Dennis and Judy Jones Free Enterprise Center. This event is the result of a collaboration between AT&T Aspire and nonprofit organizations around the country, including Junior Achievement of Greater St. Louis (JASTL).

Since the program's announcement in 2012, one million hours of mentoring have been provided to students throughout the country. As mentors, employees connect with students to help them discover their passions and potential.

"Helping students prepare for success in school and the workplace is essential to our nation's future," said AT&T Chairman and CEO Randall Stephenson. "That's why I am so proud of the thousands of AT&T employees who continue to invest their time, knowledge and experience mentoring young people across the U.S."

A caring adult is a key factor in helping ensure a student graduates from high school, a primary focus of AT&T Aspire and JASTL. One in 3 young people do not have a mentor growing up, according to recent research commissioned by MENTOR: The National Mentoring Partnership. AT&T volunteers have partnered with JASTL specifically to assist with JA Finance Park, a capstone program which teaches students about income, expenses, savings, and credit through a hands-on budgeting simulation.

"We want young people to feel in control of their future, to have the tools to make good decisions, and to live happy, successful lives," explained Junior Achievement of Greater St. Louis President and CEO Lori Jacobs. "For many students, learning about business and economics from a caring adult gives them an example of success from their own community."

The experience has a positive impact on both the adults and students. According to one volunteer at the JA Finance Park experience, "The experience today was amazing! The kids are always

eager, which makes it easy to volunteer. I think the chance to learn about budgeting/financing is definitely beneficial to them.”

The partnership between AT&T and JASTL has helped to increase the number of students receiving JA programs. During the 2014-15 school year, more than 149,000 students throughout Missouri and Illinois participating in JA, a record number for the organization.

“We are so grateful to our supporters, like AT&T,” Jacob said. “By providing opportunities for caring and generous employees to participate in JA Finance Park, AT&T is truly giving back to the community and making a difference in the lives of young people.”

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.

About Junior Achievement of Greater St. Louis - Junior Achievement of Greater St. Louis (JASTL) was founded in 1943. Encompassing 68 counties in Missouri and southern Illinois, JASTL served 149,111 K-12 students in 790 schools during the 2014-15 school year. JA programs are offered in parochial, private, and public schools and education centers throughout the St. Louis Metropolitan region, with satellite operations in outlying areas. For more information, visit www.jastl.org.