



## **FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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

*Contribution supports outreach and enrollment enhancements to steward significantly more male Black and Latino students toward college graduation*

SAN FRANCISCO—October 20, 2015—Summer Search, a national college success nonprofit organization, received a \$437,000 contribution from AT&T to further enhance outreach and enrollment strategies to young men of color and ultimately impact their long-term college graduation outcomes.

The funding will support the design, management and implementation of program enhancements at three regional pilot sites—Seattle, Boston and North San Francisco Bay—from October 2015 to September 2017. Through these enhancements, Summer Search aims to increase the number of Black and Latino male high school students referred to, and enrolled in, Summer Search; and to increase the retention rates of males of color in the program by their senior year in high school.

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 more young males of color effectively, Summer Search will utilize the financial 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 growing chasm of denied educational opportunities between teenage males of color and their peers is startling,” said Amy Saxton, CEO of Summer Search. “Summer Search is committed to prioritizing services to these young men 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 in the program by seven percent in the last three years.

“Through AT&T Aspire, our goal is to help all students—regardless of age, gender, income or zip code, make their biggest dreams a reality,” said Nicole Anderson, Executive Director of Philanthropy, AT&T Services. “We can’t make that happen without organizations like Summer Search and we’re proud to help them equip the next generation of leaders.”

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 college success 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](http://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. In 2014, nearly \$127 million was contributed or directed through corporate-, employee-, social investment- and AT&T Foundation-giving programs. AT&T Aspire is AT&T's signature education initiative that drives innovation in education by bringing diverse resources to bear on the issue including funding, technology, employee volunteerism, and mentoring.