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## **AT&T, STRIVE AND ASSEMBLYMAN WRIGHT CELEBRATE SUCCESS OF STUDENTS GRADUATING FROM JOB READINESS PROGRAM**

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*Training Program Improves Marketability of Graduates as They Enter Workforce*

**NEW YORK, SEPTEMBER 18, 2015** — Sixteen students from STRIVE, an organization dedicated to helping individuals acquire new skills and employment training, graduated today from AT&T's Youth Works Program. The program provided students ages 18-24 with four weeks of daily, intensive training in Microsoft Office and critical workplace skills that will help increase their marketability in the workforce. AT&T provided STRIVE a grant of \$12,500 through its Aspire initiative to fund the program in an ongoing effort to foster job readiness. State Assemblyman Keith Wright joined AT&T and STRIVE executives to award completion certificates to participants.

"STRIVE provides students with the hard and soft skills required to succeed in the growing tech economy, and the opportunity to learn in an environment that fosters goal setting and relationship building for future employment," said Marissa Shorenstein, President of AT&T New York. "The AT&T Youth Works Program represents a powerful agent of change in the lives of young people who are working to improve their life trajectory regardless of background, and we are proud to help these students achieve the first step on their career ladders towards financial security and a better future."

"Our city has one of the fastest growing tech and startup scenes in the country and therefore attracts top industry talent," said Assemblyman Keith Wright. "With today's job market becoming



increasingly centered on math, science and technology, we need more job training programs like the AT&T Youth Works Program for our youth in Harlem, and opportunities to learn the skills required to achieve the jobs of tomorrow. Congratulations to all of the graduates on this great achievement."

"STRIVE is grateful to AT&T for their support, which has enabled this group of young people to transform their lives through employment," said Phil Weinberg, CEO of STRIVE International. "We're very proud of our graduates, who have worked hard and overcome challenging circumstances to reach this point."

STRIVE provides students from high-risk populations with transformative job readiness training through its CORE workshop program. The training is provided at STRIVE's East Harlem facility at 123rd Street and Second Avenue, complete with a fully equipped computer lab with over 30 terminals for instruction. Participants also receive wrap-around Case Management services from STRIVE's dedicated youth case management staff. Graduates from the AT&T Youth Works program are able to continue to receive occupational skills training as part of an eight-week follow-up program.

Through AT&T Aspire, AT&T drives innovation in education to promote student success in school and beyond. By investing in new tools and solutions that leverage unique technologies and capabilities, AT&T helps personalize and mobilize learning for students of all ages and backgrounds.

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#### **About Philanthropy and 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.

#### **About AT&T**



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