# **PRESS RELEASE**

FOR IMMEDEIATE RELEASE:

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### Education Foundation, St. Lucie Receives AT&T Grant

*St. Lucie County, Fl* - St. Lucie Public School students will benefit from a statewide investment by AT&T this year, that seeks to increase understanding of how classroom curriculum translates into STEM (science, technology, engineering and math) careers.

To provide a critical link from classroom to careers, AT&T is once again partnering with the <u>Consortium of Florida Education Foundations (CFEF)</u> to provide experiential learning opportunities for students in school districts across Florida. Real-world application of STEM education concepts, problem-solving and critical thinking skills will all be key elements of the 47 separate projects to be organized and funded through CFEF member local education foundations, including Education Foundation, St. Lucie.

Education Foundation, St. Lucie recently awarded over 35 grants as part of their Teacher Grant Program, called 'Working Together for Success'. The grants were for classroom, school-wide, and district-wide projects and were distributed to 12 different schools and the District. Grants allow educators to increase and create opportunities for student success by



and help prepare tomorrow's leaders.

providing the funds to support innovative teaching methods and programs.

"We know that industries engaged in STEM disciplines will create a majority of highvalue, high-wage jobs and within ten years, almost nine out of ten new jobs will require education beyond a high school degree," said Joe York, AT&T Florida President. "We are pleased to make this contribution because Florida's K-12 education foundations are well positioned to be the link between schools and local businesses for students, enabling them to build connections with potential employers in their communities, get a sense of what careers they offer and the skill sets they require."

"ATT is proud to support the Education Foundation, St. Lucie grant program to further STEM related projects," added Ian Cotner, ATT Regional Director.

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### About Philanthropy at AT&T

AT&T Inc. (NYSE:T) is committed to advancing education, strengthening communities and improving lives. Through its philanthropic initiatives, AT&T has a long history of supporting projects that create learning opportunities; promote academic and economic achievement; and address community needs. In 2010, more than \$148.2 million was contributed through corporate-, employee- and AT&T Foundation-giving programs.

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### About the Consortium of Florida Education Foundations (CFEF):

The CFEF is the membership organization for Florida's school district-wide local education foundations. Established in 1987, the CFEF seeks to advance student achievement in Florida by increasing private sector investment and involvement in public education. The CFEF now has 64 member foundations with 1,100 business and community leaders serving as volunteer board members. Collectively, they raise more

than \$63 million annually to support students, teachers and schools through a variety of programs. The CFEF has provided more than \$44 million to local education foundations since 2001 through various private- and public-sector partnerships, including the State of Florida School District Education Foundation Matching Grant Program.

#### **About Education Foundation, St. Lucie:**

Education Foundation, St. Lucie was created in 1990, to support the St. Lucie County School Board. Its mission is to advance public K-12 education through partnerships with local businesses and organizations.

It sprang from legislation that was passed in 1984 allowing school districts to create local foundations to raise funds for programs to support students, teachers and public schools. Since its beginning, Education Foundation, St. Lucie, has provided millions of dollars in student scholarships and teacher grants.

Education Foundation, St. Lucie is a community wide organization. If you would like to get involved as a sponsor, volunteer or supporter, please contact Thom Jones, President at (772) 429-5505 or visit <u>www.efslc.org.</u>

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