

Press Release

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:

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St Lucie County Education Foundation Receives AT&T Grant for Students to Experience ‘STEM@Work’

St. Lucie County, Fla- Students at Allapattah Flats K-8 will benefit from a statewide investment by AT&T this year, one that seeks to increase understanding of how classroom curriculum translates into STEM (science, technology, engineering and math) careers.

For the 10th consecutive year, AT&T is working with the Consortium of Florida Education Foundations (CFEF) to provide experiential learning opportunities for students in school districts across Florida through “STEM@Work.” Real-world application of STEM education concepts, problem-solving and critical thinking skills will all be key elements of the 42 separate projects to be organized and funded through CFEF member local education foundations, including the St Lucie County Education Foundation.

The grant will support a program titled “Clean & Safe Water Testing to Support Agriculture”. This program was conceived by school-teacher Kristen Newell, and supported by both the school district and Adams Ranch, Inc. The goal is to teach the students about non-traditional holistic ways to improve cattle ranching and citrus groves in a hands-on environment. Students will probe various water sources throughout the Adams Ranch property in Fort Pierce and assess the health of the water. Students will study the health of the fish, other wildlife as well as the cattle and crops. Students will utilize scientific testing methods to assess levels of pH, dissolved oxygen, ammonia and other particles and report the findings to Adams Ranch.

“This is an exciting project for the students and all of us here at the Adams Ranch,” stated Mike Adams, Adams Ranch President. “This will provide a great learning experience for the students and help provide valuable information for the future of both cattle ranching and the citrus industry.”

Thom Jones, Education Foundation President, presented the opportunity to St Lucie Public Schools thanks to the efforts of Consortium of Florida Education Foundations. Mr. Jones approached Mr. Adams, a long-time supporter of the Education Foundation. Adams Ranch is an Outstanding Community Leader Honoree for the 2019 Hall of Champions, an annual recognition event sponsored by the Education Foundation.

The project will take place in the classroom and at the ranch starting in February and ending in late March 2020.

Allapattah Flats Principal, Anna Rodriguez-Oronoz said this grant will help increase the interest in students enrolling in STEM related curriculum and help spur an increase in students pursuing a career in STEM.

The Education Foundation was created in 1990 to help advance the academic achievement of all public-school students through grants as well as student scholarships.

“Industries engaged in STEM disciplines will create many of the high-value, high-wage jobs of tomorrow, and we also know that many jobs today – and even more tomorrow – will require education beyond a high school degree,” said Joe York, President, AT&T Florida. “CFEF and other organizations are key to ensuring that young people are exposed to the educational and skills development opportunities to prepare them for success in their careers.”

This year’s statewide grant brings the total investment by AT&T over ten years to nearly \$1 million. More than 75,000 students have been directly impacted through 476 projects involving 950 local workplace partners in 51 school districts throughout Florida.

“When I think back on my school years, the times I got to do something hands-on and outside the classroom are my strongest memories and some of those experiences influenced my career path,” said Mary Chance, president of the CFEF. “We are so grateful that AT&T continues to see the value of giving students experiences that allow them to experience how math and science are applied in careers through STEM@Work.”

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. The company’s signature philanthropic initiative, AT&T Aspire, drives innovation in education to promote student success in school and beyond. With a financial commitment of \$500 million since 2008, AT&T is leveraging technology, relationships and social innovation to help all students make their biggest dreams a reality.

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 \$64 million annually to support students, teachers and schools through a variety of programs. The CFEF has provided nearly \$52 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.