



## AT&T's Partnership with Boston University

In March of 2015, AT&T partnered with Boston University's College of Engineering to create a 2 year engineering and technology program for the Josiah Upper Quincy School in Boston. The funding enables undergraduate Inspiration Ambassadors from the College's Technology Innovation Scholars Program (TISP) to deliver classroom and after-school engineering activities such as designing vehicles, building and coding robots, and designing wind turbines and fiber optics protocols, to name a few. TISP's mission is to inspire and prepare a diverse workforce for 21st century technology-related fields. Each year, the program professionally trains and manages 50 select BU undergraduate engineers as "Inspiration Ambassadors," who share their passion for and understanding of technology and engineering design with youth nationwide. TISP's local programming began in September of 2015 with fifty low-income first generation 9th graders who will participate in the program through the end of their 10th grade year. AT&T's, \$145,000 contribution is part of the company's Aspire grant fund which was launched in 2008 and has been committed to increasing high school graduation and career readiness with a particular focus on data-driven outcomes in education.

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**Impact of Partnership.** AT&T has an extensive track record of partnering with institutions that we know are using statistically supported and measured outcomes for success. AT&T's partnership enables TISP to hire 55 undergraduate student engineers and coaches to teach and mentor students in the classroom for a period of 2 years. Student engineers hail from diverse educational backgrounds, ethnic cultures, and geographic areas. The impact of this partnership will support TISP's data collection, analysis and both inspire and prepare them for post-secondary success. Each student will receive pre and post baseline surveys that will measure their interest in STEM related careers and their aptitude towards graduation. After 8 visits it is evident that students have embraced TISP's engineers as positive role models and have a renewed interest in STEM.

*"This contribution will enable us to provide all the benefits of TISP engineering outreach: fun design activities, after-school robotics, and summer enrichment and scholarships and deliver our relatable role-models to a partner high school in Boston. We continue to engage students of all backgrounds and abilities and both inspire and prepare them for post-secondary success,"* said Dr. Gretchen Fougere.

In Boston, the Ambassadors guide students in the engineering design process as teams innovate to create technologies associated with communications, energy, the environment and healthcare. In Boston area schools, for example, these design challenges relate to cellphone towers, wind turbines, fuel cells, robotics and coding and app development. The technologies and engineering are derived from cutting-edge engineering research at BU and corporate supporters like AT&T.

By the end of June, 2016, TISP will have completed 10 visits to the Josiah Upper Quincy School with the support of AT&T. We will continue to work with TISP to monitor student process, conduct classroom visits and promote this important partnership.

**Lessons Learned from the partnership.** Our partnership with Boston University's College of Engineering has just begun although we have seen short-term outcomes and believe this investment is supporting student engagement which increases their likelihood to succeed, graduate from high school and began their post-secondary education.

Anecdotal evidence suggests that the program has had a direct and favorable impact on underprivileged youth, influencing many to seek out STEM coursework in high school, to graduate from high school, and even to pursue and secure university placements and scholarships. Five have received full scholarships for study at BU's College of Engineering or other schools. Several of the former high school students reached and mentored are now Ambassadors themselves.

The AT&T contribution will enable the program to empirically measure and document that impact, while also providing a test case for running the program on an intensive basis with a dedicated cohort of students over two years.