

Media Advisory: Oct. 14, 2008

AT&T gift to Dean's Future Scholars Program announced Thursday

More northern Nevada students from low-income families will be encouraged to graduate from high school and be the first generation in their families to attend college

RENO, Nev.— A one-of-a-kind program helping area students from low-income families set their sights on college will expand as a result of a \$200,000 grant from AT&T. The gift will allow 20 Sparks High School students to join the Dean's Future Scholars Program offered through the University's College of Education. Along with the 300 middle and high school students already in the program, these Sparks freshmen at Sparks will be on track to be the first generation in their families to attend college.

The program includes a comprehensive mentoring component. University students are trained to help these middle and high school students persist through adversity, learn study skills and prepare for college. The mentors visit the schools and students weekly.

- WHAT:** Announcement of \$200,000 AT&T Aspire grant and introduction of the 20 Sparks High School freshmen who will join the expanded program as a result of the gift.
- WHEN:** Thursday, Oct. 16, 1 p.m.
- WHERE:** Front of the William Raggio Building, home of the College of Education, on the University campus.
Will be moved inside in case of inclement weather.
- WHO:** 20 Sparks High School freshmen -- the newest class of Dean's Future Scholars.
University student-mentors who themselves completed the program.
Senior officials with AT&T and the University.
State and local officials including Senate Majority Leader Bill Raggio.
- PARKING:** Enter campus at 15th Street (Lawlor Events Center), parking attendants will be available to assist.

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Nevada's land-grant university founded in 1874, the University of Nevada, Reno has an enrollment of nearly 17,000 students. The University is home to one the country's largest study-abroad programs and the state's medical school, and offers outreach and education programs in all Nevada counties. For more information, visit www.unr.edu.



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