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AT&T AWARDS \$180,000 TO ASSIST DISABLED VETERAN BUSINESSES ACROSS CALIFORNIA

Hundreds of Disabled Veterans in San Diego, Los Angeles, Orange County, Sacramento, San Francisco and the Central Valley Will Benefit From Grant to Start Own Business

SAN FRANCISCO, JANUARY 26, 2011 — As a part of AT&T* California's support and dedication to veterans, the company announced \$180,000 that will help six regional organizations located in San Diego, Los Angeles, Orange County, Sacramento, San Francisco and the Central Valley. The grants have been made possible by AT&T's Microenterprise Technical Assistance Program (MTAP) which will focus these grants on helping California's disabled veterans who have served our country.

"Microenterprise is about giving a helping hand to disabled veterans as they come back from service so they can start their own businesses," said Claudia Viek, CEO of California Association for Microenterprise Opportunity (CAMEO). "AT&T's leadership has been vital to preparing disabled veterans to become self-employed small business owners."

The MTAP funds organizations who work with individuals including disabled vets to successfully start and grow small businesses. The MTAP program was launched by AT&T in 2006 to support initiatives that provide business assistance and capital to minority, women and disabled veteran businesses. AT&T has been working closely with CAMEO to identify organizations and programs that support disabled veterans who want to start their own businesses.

"The California Public Utilities Commission is committed to helping California's disabled veterans and we're pleased that AT&T has taken a leadership role in this area," said Michael R. Peevey, President, of the CPUC. "One of the ways we can all support California is to buy goods and services from California small businesses and especially those owned by veterans."

“AT&T has a history of helping underserved communities succeed and as a part of our commitment we are proud to help these honorable disabled veterans become successful entrepreneurs,” said Ken McNeely, President, AT&T California. "This program is a meaningful way to help hundreds of California disabled veterans who have served our country.”

The six organizations receiving funding have demonstrated a successful track record of providing assistance to disabled veterans across California.

The award recipients are:

- **Southwestern College Small Business Development Center, San Diego** (\$30,000 contributed) - This funding will support the Disabled Veterans Micro Enterprise Development Academy which provides critical training that will help veterans successfully start and sustain their own business. Specifically, the program involves five critical business start-up and management areas, and is combined with one-on-one business advisory sessions. Veterans will complete a business plan, while advisors will assist with identifying and accessing sources of capital to help launch their business.
- **National Asian American Coalition (formerly Mabuhay Alliance), Northern and Southern California** (\$20,000 contributed) – The funding will support 10 to 40 disabled veterans in 2011 to successfully participate in a comprehensive, 32-hour training in business management, growth and financing. Additionally, participants are given access to the organization’s Capacity Building Program, supplier diversity contract opportunities from corporate sponsors as well as business matchmaking conferences.
- **Goodwill Micro Enterprise Program, Orange County** (\$35,000 contributed) – The funding will help provide entrepreneurship training where veterans will learn about personal and financial requirements for starting a business and how to develop marketing strategies, examine operating costs, and project future financial performance.

- **CHARO Corporation, Los Angeles** (\$35,000 contributed) – The funding will help 30 disabled veterans with client assessment, certification preparation and packaging, procurement matching, and access to capital. Additionally, it will provide 80 hours of training and 200 hours of consultation.
- **Central Valley Business Incubator, Fresno** (\$35,000 contributed) – The funding will leverage the established programs and curricula of the CVBI/Small Business Development Center and incorporate a disabled veteran-targeted outreach via the development of a referral program between CVBI/SBDC and several local veterans support groups. The project provides online training, one-to-one technical assistance, counseling and coaching to underserved, disabled veteran micro-entrepreneurs.
- **Farmer Veteran Coalition, Davis and North Central California** (\$25,000 contributed) – This funding will help at least five disabled veterans create or expand their farming or food related business in California in 2011, place at least five disabled veterans into internships or other agricultural training opportunities, and create a farming-veteran mentor training program.

In addition to the MTAP initiative, in 2010 AT&T California launched Operation Hand Salute, a 12-month program designed to help disabled veterans get to the next level of corporate readiness through mentorship, workshops, and a series of courses to help them improve their business operations and win contracts with large corporations.

For more than 85 years, AT&T has been honored to support military personnel, their families and veterans and was recently recognized by G.I. Jobs as one of the Top 50 Most Military-Friendly Employers.

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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 and partnerships, AT&T has a long history of supporting projects that create learning opportunities; promote academic and economic achievement; and address community needs. In 2009, more than \$155 million was contributed through corporate-, employee- and AT&T Foundation-giving programs.

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