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Florida Attorney General Joins AT&T and Step Up For Students to Educate Children on Cyber Safety

TALLAHASSEE, Fla., March 11, 2009—Tenth-grader Jasmine Salter was one of more than 30 students at North Florida Christian School on Wednesday who was joined by Attorney General Bill McCollum as well as representatives from AT&T and Step Up For Students for a hands-on Internet safety session.

Although Jasmine has been lucky in navigating the Internet, just five years ago she was haunted by a different predator — math, a subject she struggled with at her public school. However, receiving a Step Up For Students Scholarship gave her the opportunity to attend a school that could meet her needs and she was able to overcome her difficulties with math.

On Wednesday, Jasmine proudly thanked corporate donors, like AT&T, for their contributions to the scholarship program and for allowing more than 23,000 students like herself the opportunity to attend the school of her parents' choice. Attending a private school was an option that previously wasn't available to Jasmine due to her mother's fixed income as a single parent.

"Step Up For Students gave me a second chance in school and the opportunity to reach my full potential," said Jasmine. "Thanks to the scholarship program and corporate donors like AT&T, I am receiving the knowledge and skills necessary to have a successful future."

AT&T first joined Step Up For Students, also known as the Florida Corporate Tax Credit Scholarship Program, in 2008 and has donated \$3.2 million. The corporate donations provide annual private school tuition scholarships of up to \$3,950 or transportation scholarships of up to \$500 to out-of-district public schools for students whose families meet the federal guidelines for free and reduced lunch.

"AT&T has a long history of promoting academic achievement and opportunity and we are honored to support Step Up For Students," said Marshall Criser III, president of AT&T Florida. "Our contribution to this outstanding program will open many doors and provide scholarships to more than 800 economically disadvantaged students. We hope our participation in Step Up For Students enables them to increase their knowledge and skills as they pursue their education."

Both AT&T and Attorney General Bill McCollum individually prioritize children's safety, particularly when it pertains to cybercrime. McCollum encouraged the business community to continue cooperative efforts against cybercrime, including community outreach to prevent any crime perpetrated or substantially facilitated using a computer, the Internet, digital media, cellular phone, personal digital assistant (PDA), or any other electronic device.

"Reducing the number of cybercrimes in Florida is one of my top priorities as Attorney General, and cyber safety education is key to that effort," said Attorney General McCollum. "We are taking every opportunity to educate our youth in our mission to make the Internet a safer place for our children."

The event is an extension of AT&T's Internet educational efforts that launched three years ago with the AT&T Hometown Tour, which visited more than 100 communities nationwide and worked with more than 20,000 elementary and middle-school-aged students from Connecticut to California. The Attorney General was featured as the keynote speaker on Cyber Safety.

About AT&T

AT&T Inc. (NYSE:T) is a premier communications holding company. Its subsidiaries and affiliates, AT&T operating companies, are the providers of AT&T services in the United States and around the world. Among their offerings are the world's most advanced IP-based business communications services, the nation's fastest 3G network and the best wireless coverage worldwide, and the nation's leading high speed Internet access and voice services. In domestic markets, AT&T is known for the directory publishing and advertising sales leadership of its Yellow Pages and YELLOWPAGES.COM organizations, and the AT&T brand is licensed to innovators in such fields as communications equipment. As part of their three-screen integration strategy, AT&T operating companies are expanding their TV entertainment offerings. In 2008, AT&T again ranked No. 1 in the telecommunications industry on FORTUNE® magazine's lists of the World's Most Admired Companies and America's Most Admired Companies. Additional information about AT&T Inc. and the products and services provided by AT&T subsidiaries and affiliates is available at <http://www.att.com>.

About Step Up For Students

The Florida Corporate Tax Credit Scholarship Program – also known as Step Up For Students – currently provides K-12 scholarships for more than 23,000 low-income Florida students to attend a private school or out-of-district public school. Step Up For Students scholarships are funded by corporations that redirect up to 75 percent of their corporate state tax liability to a qualified Scholarship Funding Organization in exchange for a dollar-for-dollar tax credit. For more information, visit www.stepupforstudents.com.