



**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
MAY 6, 2009**

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District of Columbia Students Graduate AT&T-Sponsored PowerCommunicators Course

Washington, DC (May 6) -- The first class of AT&T-sponsored PowerCommunicators students graduated yesterday from Stuart-Hobson Middle School in the District of Columbia during a special commencement ceremony at the school.

In partnership with the District of Columbia Public Schools (DCPS), PowerCommunicators offered 50 elementary and middle school students communication, public speaking, leadership, and other life skills courses. In addition to the graduates at Stuart-Hobson, students from Brightwood Elementary School, Truesdell Education Campus, Aiton Elementary School, and Tubman Elementary School are among the PowerCommunicators Class of 2009. The PowerCommunicators Class of 2009 was supported with a \$25,000 contribution from AT&T.

"AT&T is the world's premiere communications company, so it's fitting that we're highlighting the power of effective communication," said Denis Dunn, Vice President for state external affairs for AT&T. "The skills these students learned during the PowerCommunicators after-school programs will prepare them for success in school, on the job, and in life. Congratulations to the students who have completed the program – and thanks for the teachers and mentors from Stuart-Hobson and PowerCommunicators who helped them reach this milestone."

PowerCommunicators has provided tutoring services to hundreds of K-12 students in the District of Columbia through the District's No Child Left Behind program since its inception in 2003.

"Good communication abilities are among the most important life skills critical to achieving success in any field and in every aspect of our lives – academically, professionally, and socially," said PowerCommunicators President Ed Wilczynski. "These kids need to be able to represent themselves effectively, ask the questions they need to have answers to, and interact appropriately with others, otherwise they will be under-prepared and disadvantaged as they leave high school and go to work, college, or trade school in an increasingly competitive world."

According to PowerCommunicators Vice-President Tracy Proctor, students need to know how to introduce themselves properly, how to make meaningful eye contact, how to start and maintain conversations, how to interact with all kinds of individuals, how to give a successful interview, and how to stand up and address a live audience with confidence and respect. "In short, they need to know how to use their oral communications abilities to get where they want to go and to become who they want to be." Proctor said.

PowerCommunicators is a communication and public speaking program that teaches the fundamentals of effective professional and social speaking, expression, and interaction. This proprietary, research-based curriculum is aligned with national standards for teaching and learning, and emphasizes effective oral communication and public speaking with additional focus on leadership training, character education, success training, and good citizenship.

AT&T is committed to advancing education, strengthening communities, and improving lives. Through its philanthropic initiatives and partnerships, AT&T and the AT&T Foundation support projects that create opportunities, make connections, and address community needs. Supporting education has been a major focus for AT&T for more than a century, and education is the company's key philanthropy focus. AT&T and its employees are driven to help students succeed — in school, in the workforce, and in life. All told, in 2008, AT&T and its employees contributed more than \$2 million through corporate, employee, and AT&T Foundation giving programs in Washington, DC.

For more information about PowerCommunicators, visit www.powercommunicators.org.

For more information about AT&T's commitment to education, visit www.att.com/foundation.