



COLUMBUS, Ga. — AT&T Monday announced a \$25,000 contribution to support the UTeach Program at Columbus State University.

The mission of [UTeach Columbus](#) is to recruit and prepare highly qualified mathematics and science teachers who demonstrate excellence in teaching, scholarship, and professionalism. Ultimately, the result of efforts to achieve excellence will be improved student learning in P-12 math and science classrooms. Columbus State partners with schools in Muscogee County, Harris County and Fort Benning.

“Every time we’ve turned to AT&T, you’ve been unbelievably encouraging and supportive,” CSU President Tim Mescon told AT&T Regional Director Terry Smith at a Monday ceremony. “These are the kinds of gifts that will make a legacy difference in our community for many years to come. This is a huge deal for us, for this community and we’re just getting started.”

[UTeach](#) is a university-based secondary STEM teacher preparation program started at the University of Texas at Austin in 1997. UTeach has been recognized as a model for STEM teacher preparation reform by prominent organizations, including the National Research Council, the U.S. Department of Education, the National Academy of Sciences, the National Academy of Engineering and the Institute of Medicine. UTeach was featured as a model program in a 2006 report by the National Academies, *Rising Above the Gathering Storm*, which called for a dramatic increase in the number of STEM teachers.

“I want to thank Columbus State University for launching this program to provide a sharp focus on STEM education for our students,” state Rep. Richard Smith said. “Preparing our young people for high skill, high wage jobs is critical for the economic health of our community and our state. A joint venture between AT&T and Columbus State University brings the best of both worlds together — business and education. One cannot succeed without the other. But in joining together, the sum exceeds the parts.”

Columbus State University’s UTeach program aligns with AT&T’s Aspire initiative to improve

and expand education and is a reflection of AT&T's continued efforts to improve local communities.

"AT&T is a proud to support Columbus State University," Smith said. "The importance of STEM education can't be underestimated as we build tomorrow's workforce."

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Caption: Celebrating the donation of \$25,000 from AT&T to Columbus State University's UTeach program, which focuses on producing more STEM (science, technology, engineering and math) teachers, on Monday are, from left, Deborah Gober, education co-director for UTeach Columbus; Alan Medders, vice president for University Advancement; Barbara Buckner, dean of CSU's College of Education and Health Professions; CSU President Tim Mescon; Terry Smith, AT&T regional manager; David Lanoue, dean of CSU's College of Letters and Sciences; and Kimberly Shaw, science co-director for UTeach Columbus.

Editors: [High-resolution original version of photo](#)