



AT&T announced a \$300,000 grant to benefit Dillard University's Pre-Collegiate Emerging Scholars Program on Saturday, Nov. 10, in the DUICEF Building on the Dillard University campus. Emerging Scholars students and their parents attended the presentation.

"We are very excited to receive this support from AT&T," said Theresa DeGruy, program director. "We look forward to using the funds to help our scholarship efforts for the Pre-Collegiate Emerging Scholars Program. This financial support means more of our students will be able to attend college and pursue their dreams."

"A surefire way to ensure future growth and prosperity for the New Orleans region is to focus on educating today's students," said Cynthia Hedge-Morrell, New Orleans City Council member. "I am proud to support efforts that work toward keeping our students in school and preparing them for both higher education and future careers."

"It is an honor to support Dillard University and the work they are doing to help stem the high school dropout crisis in our country," said Sonia Perez, president, AT&T Louisiana. "By educating today's youth and helping them prepare for the future, we can ensure the future workforce of our company and our country will be stocked with qualified employees who have the 21st century skills that American businesses need to remain competitive in the digital, global economy."

The Pre-Collegiate Emerging Scholars Program is a free college preparatory program designed to encourage students from disadvantaged backgrounds to graduate from high school and enroll in college. Students can begin the program in eighth, ninth or 10th grade. They receive tutoring in reading, writing, math and science, as well as one-on-one mentoring. Students are encouraged to remain in the program throughout high school; they are taken on college tours and given assistance with the college admissions process, including ACT/SAT prep and help applying for financial aid. Students who complete the program and matriculate at Dillard receive a scholarship. The program meets every Saturday from 9 a.m. to 2 p.m., and parents participate in the first hour.
