



MITSUBISHI ELECTRIC AMERICA FOUNDATION CELEBRATES 20 YEARS, ANNOUNCES OVER \$720,000 IN NEW GRANTS

Focus on Full Inclusion of Young People with Disabilities

WASHINGTON, DC, February 14, 2011 — Mitsubishi Electric America Foundation has announced \$721,500 in new and continuing grants as it celebrates 20 years of making changes for the better in the lives of youth with disabilities.

Grants include \$557,500 to nine national inclusion projects, along with \$144,000 which will be awarded in matching grants and matching gifts to organizations selected by Mitsubishi Electric US employees in the communities where they live and work.

In addition, as part of its 20th anniversary celebration, Mitsubishi Electric America Foundation will present Inclusion Champion Awards to twenty current and past grantees. The awards honor individuals or organizations for the efforts they make to promote the full participation of young people with disabilities in society. Trophies and \$20,000 in grants will be distributed throughout the year.

“For 20 years, Mitsubishi Electric America Foundation has worked to identify partners with the most innovative ideas that promote the full inclusion of young people with disabilities,” says Kevin R. Webb, the Foundation’s director. “The focus of our grants “ continues Webb, “has been and will continue to be on developing sustainable, replicable models that make the most impact on the lives of youth with disabilities, and help to build more inclusive communities.”

Current and continuing grant projects are:

- \$165,000 to support the *Summer Congressional Internship Program* for the Washington, DC-based **American Association of People with Disabilities** (AAPD). The HSC Foundation has joined MEAF for the tenth year of this hallmark program that places college students with disabilities in summer internships in Congress.
- \$10,000 to support AAPD’s *Paul G. Hearne Leadership Award Program*.

- \$100,000 to the **Girl Scout Council of the Nation's Capital** to continue support for the *Include All Girls Initiative* through 2013, including support for the National Keys to Leadership Conference, March 11-13, 2011, designed to share promising practices on inclusion.
- \$50,000 to San Diego, Ca.-based **Kids Included Together** to develop *Inclusion Institutes* in five communities that build on KIT's efforts to train after-school providers on inclusion.
- \$210,000 to support a new three-year project between the **Tarjan Center at UCLA** and **SAGE** (Students for the Advancement of Global Entrepreneurship) to *Include All Students in Entrepreneurial Leadership Programs*.
- \$10,000 to the **National Council for International Visitors** *Citizen Diplomacy Program for Emerging Leaders* to expose students, with and without disabilities, to international careers.
- \$7,500 to the **National Inclusion Project** to support the continued efforts of the youth-led *I am Norm: Redefining Normal, Promoting Inclusion* national campaign (www.JamNorm.org).
- \$5,000 to promote the *Customized Employment Concept* at the **TASH** Annual Conference.

The Mitsubishi Electric America Foundation, based in the Washington, DC area, was established in 1991 by Mitsubishi Electric Corporation of Japan and the Mitsubishi Electric U.S. companies, which produce, sell and distribute a wide range of consumer, industrial, commercial and professional electronics products. With an initial endowment of \$15 million, the Foundation has contributed more than \$10 million to organizations assisting young people with disabilities to lead fuller and more productive lives.

For more information, please visit the Mitsubishi Electric America Foundation's fully accessible, award-winning website at www.meaf.org.

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