

## **MITSUBISHI ELECTRIC AMERICA FOUNDATION ANNOUNCES \$665,000 IN NEW GRANTS**

*Focused on Empowering Youth with Disabilities to Lead Productive Lives*

**WASHINGTON, DC, January 25, 2017** — Mitsubishi Electric America Foundation announces \$665,000 in new grants as part of its national [M>PWR Initiative](#) designed to empower youth with disabilities so they can lead productive lives.

“By supporting innovative ability awareness, mentoring and on-the-job training opportunities, we can help empower youth with disabilities by providing the leadership and job skills they need to successfully transition to the workforce,” said Kevin R. Webb, senior director of the Mitsubishi Electric America Foundation,

As part of its national [M>PWR Initiative](#), Mitsubishi Electric America Foundation has awarded \$665,000 in new grants to eight organizations. Continuing, multiyear projects will also receive \$324,000 in 2017 funds.

### **New Grants**

- \$255,000 to the **American Association of People with Disabilities** over the next three years to support the *Summer Internship Program*, which places college interns with disabilities in Congressional Offices and Federal Agencies in Washington, DC, and to pilot the program in state capitals.
- \$225,000 to **Partners for Youth with Disabilities** over the next three years to develop the *Campus Career Connect* program, which partners community college students with mentors from Business Leadership Networks in Connecticut, Kansas, Maine, Massachusetts and Wyoming.
- \$100,000 to the **PACER Center** over the next two years to support the National Parent Center *Inspiring Possibilities* project, which will help youth with disabilities and their families understand how to navigate employment and post-secondary education so they can lead self-directed lives.
- \$75,000 to **Exceptional Minds** over the next three years to prepare young adults on the autism spectrum participating in the *Digital Arts Vocational Training* program and studio for Job Readiness and Placement.

- \$10,000 to the **Autistic Self Advocacy Network** to help continue its *Autism Campus Inclusion* project, which teaches self-advocacy and leadership skills to autistic college students.

### **Continuing Projects**

- \$123,000 for the second year of a \$248,500/three-year grant to **Cincinnati Children's Hospital Medical Center** to support the expansion of the *Project SEARCH Program* to all 50 states. The project helps high school students with cognitive disabilities successfully transition to competitive employment.
- \$73,200 for the second year of a \$200,000/three-year grant to the **University of New Hampshire, Institute on Disability** to support Dan Habib's new feature-length documentary film project, *Intelligent Lives* (working title), which will challenge perceptions about intelligence of people with intellectual disabilities.
- \$62,800 for the third year of a \$196,400/three-year grant with the **US International Council on Disability** to support the *Youth in International Development & Affairs Program*, which places college students with disabilities in internships with international affairs organizations.
- \$25,000 for the third year of a \$105,000/three-year grant to **The Arc of the United States** to support *The Specialisterne Model*, which provides career opportunities in information technology to youth on the autism spectrum.
- \$40,000 for the third year of a \$120,000/three-year grant to **The HSC Foundation**, which provides matching funds for youth-related transitions grants and conference funds, as well as the *Advocates in Disability Award Program*.

Mitsubishi Electric America Foundation, based in the Washington, DC area, was established in 1991 by Mitsubishi Electric Corporation and the Mitsubishi Electric group companies in the United States, which produce, sell and distribute a wide range of consumer, industrial, commercial and professional electronics products. The foundation has contributed more than \$15 million over the past 26 years to organizations that empower young people with disabilities to lead more inclusive and productive lives.

To learn more, visit the Mitsubishi Electric America Foundation's website at [www.MEAF.org](http://www.MEAF.org).

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***empowering youth with disabilities to lead productive lives***