

## MITSUBISHI ELECTRIC AMERICA FOUNDATION CELEBRATES ITS 25<sup>th</sup> ANNIVERSARY WITH \$594,500 IN GRANTS

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

WASHINGTON, DC, February 16, 2016 — Mitsubishi Electric America Foundation announces \$594,500 in new grants, as it celebrates 25 years of empowering youth with disabilities to lead productive lives.

“As we approach this milestone in the Foundation’s history, we are beginning to see the results of 25 years of grantmaking to organizations that are working to ensure young people with disabilities are fully included in society as they transition from school into the workforce,” says Kevin R. Webb, senior director of the Mitsubishi Electric America Foundation.

As part of its national [M>PWR Initiative](#), the Foundation has awarded \$594,500 in new grants to seven organizations. Continuing, multiyear projects will receive \$400,300 in 2016 funds.

### New Grants

- \$248,500 to **Cincinnati Children’s Hospital Medical Center** over the next three years to support the expansion of the *Project SEARCH Program* to all 50 states, helping high school students with cognitive disabilities successfully transition to competitive employment
- \$200,000 to the **University of New Hampshire, Institute on Disability** over the next three years 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
- \$106,000 to **Life’sWork of Western PA** to support its *Youth Services* to help young people with disabilities overcome barriers to employment and successfully transition into the workplace
- Four grants of \$10,000 each to the **Association of People Supporting EmploymentFirst’s Regional Institute, Partners for Youth with Disabilities National Disability Mentoring Coalition, US Business Leadership Network’s UCP Innovation Lab, and Wisconsin Environmental Education Foundation’s Nature Center Interns for Access Program**

### Continuing Projects

- \$60,000 for the third year of a \$260,000/three-year grant to the **Marriott Foundation for People with Disabilities** to support *Bridges from School to Work*, a program that examines ways in

which employer networks can successfully implement Ticket to Work to achieve employment outcomes for young employees

- \$74,900 for the third year of a \$223,000/three-year grant to **DO-IT at the University of Washington** to support *AccessSTEM-Careers Program*, a career development model for post-secondary students with disabilities, employers and colleges to create a pipeline of workers prepared for jobs in the technology sector
- \$62,500 for the third year of a \$187,500/three-year grant to the **Autistic Self-Advocacy Network** to continue its *Autistic Campus Inclusion* project
- \$42,500 for the second year of a \$115,000/two-year grant to the **US Business Leadership Network** to continue the *Career Link Mentoring Program* in partnership with Cornell University; the Career Link Mentoring Program places college students and recent graduates with disabilities in a mentoring relationship with business professionals
- \$65,400 for the second 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
- \$35,000 for the second 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 second year of a \$120,000/three-year grant to **The HSC Foundation**, which provides matching funds for *National Youth Transitions* and the *Advocates in Disability Award Program*

The Mitsubishi Electric America Foundation, based in the Washington, DC area, was established in 1991 by Mitsubishi Electric Corporation and the Mitsubishi Electric U.S. companies, which produce, sell and distribute a wide range of consumer, industrial, commercial and professional electronics products. The Foundation has contributed more than \$14 million to organizations that are empowering 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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Contact: Kevin R. Webb, Director, 703/276-8245, [Kevin.Webb@meus.mea.com](mailto:Kevin.Webb@meus.mea.com)