



MITSUBISHI ELECTRIC AMERICA FOUNDATION ANNOUNCES \$828,000 IN GRANTS

Focus on Empowering Youth with Disabilities to Lead Productive Lives

WASHINGTON, DC, February 17, 2012 — Mitsubishi Electric America Foundation announces \$828,000 in new and continuing grants, in line with its new funding priorities to help youth with disabilities successfully transition into the workforce.

Grants include \$650,470 to seven national projects, along with \$177,530 which will be awarded in local and matching grants and gifts to organizations selected by the Foundation and Mitsubishi Electric US employees in the communities where they live and work.

“For 20 years, the Mitsubishi Electric America Foundation has focused on promoting the full inclusion of young people with disabilities in the community,” says Kevin R. Webb, the Foundation’s director. “This year’s grant investments are designed to ensure that young people with disabilities have the leadership and employment skills that they need to be fully included in the workplace as they transition to adulthood.”

Continuing Projects

- The second year of a \$165,000/three-year grant to support the *Summer Internships Program* for the Washington, DC-based **American Association of People with Disabilities (AAPD)**. This hallmark program places college students with disabilities in summer internships on Capitol Hill, providing leadership and career skills, and changing attitudes along the way.
- The second year of a \$100,000/three-year grant to the **Girl Scout Council of the Nation’s Capital** for their *National Include All Girls Initiative*, which helps girls become leaders as the Girl Scouts of the USA celebrates 100 years.
- The second year of a \$210,000/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*, which provides opportunities for youth with disabilities to build their entrepreneurial acumen.

New Grants

- \$35,000 over the next two-years to the **American Association of People with Disabilities** to expand their successful Disability Mentoring Day into a *Pipelines of Talent Project*.
- \$60,000 to Boston-based **Partners for Youth with Disabilities** to develop a *Mentoring for All* project to help **Big Brothers Big Sisters** develop strategies to ensure youth with disabilities have mentoring opportunities and professional role models to help them succeed.
- \$55,470 to the **Autistic Self-Advocacy Network** in partnership with the **Institute on Disability at the University of New Hampshire** to create an *Autistic Campus Leadership Academy* for autistic college students from across the U.S. develop the skills they need for full inclusion.
- \$25,000 to the **National Inclusion Project** to support the continued efforts of the youth-led *I am Norm: Redefining Normal, Promoting Inclusion* national campaign (www.IamNorm.org).

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 \$11 million to organizations assisting young people with disabilities to lead fuller and more productive lives.

To learn more, visit the Mitsubishi Electric America Foundation's website at www.MEAF.org.

#

Contact: Kevin R. Webb, Director
703/276-8240
kevin.webb@meus.mea.com