



MITSUBISHI ELECTRIC AMERICA FOUNDATION ANNOUNCES \$1.2 MILLION IN GRANTS

Focus on Empowering Youth with Disabilities to Lead Productive Lives

WASHINGTON, DC, February 14, 2013 — Mitsubishi Electric America Foundation announces \$1,211,444 in new and continuing grants, in line with its funding priorities and the national call to action to improve employment outcomes for people with disabilities.

According to the U.S. Department of Labor, only 20 percent of people with disabilities participate in the workforce, compared to 69 percent of the population without disabilities. “Organizations across the country from the National Governor’s Association to the U.S. Business Leadership Network are working through public-private partnership to advance employment opportunities for people with disabilities,” says Kevin R. Webb, director of the Foundation. “The Mitsubishi Electric America Foundation is proud to be part of this national effort. By investing in innovative projects designed to empower youth with disabilities, they have more promising employment prospects as they transition to adulthood.”

Grants include \$510,000 to four continuing and \$537,444 to five new national projects. Another \$164,000 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.

Continuing Projects

- The third 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)**. AAPD places college students with disabilities in summer internships on Capitol Hill.
- The third 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*. This initiative helps promote the full inclusion of girls with disabilities in Girl Scouting, and helps develop their leadership skills for the future.
- The third 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*. This program provides opportunities for youth with disabilities to build their entrepreneurial acumen.

- The second year of a \$35,000/two year project to the **American Association of People with Disabilities** to expand Disability Mentoring Day into a *Pipelines of Talent Project*.

New Grants

- \$62,900 to the **Autistic Self-Advocacy Network** to extend its *Autistic Campus Leadership Academy* for autistic college students. The students develop their self-advocacy skills, then put those skills into action to create more inclusive college campuses.
- \$149,578 to the **US Business Leadership Network**, which is working in partnership with the **Employer Assistance & Resource Network (EARN)**, to develop a two-year *Career Link Mentoring Program*. The program places college students and recent graduates with disabilities in a mentoring relationship with business professionals.
- \$159,990 over two years to the **US International Council on Disability** to establish a *Youth in Development Internship Program*, which places college students with disabilities in summer internships with international affairs organizations.
- \$37,502 to the **Cincinnati Children's Hospital Medical Center** to support the *Project SEARCH Training Institute*, which gathers and shares best practices related to placing students with severe disabilities in competitive jobs.
- \$127,474 over the next two years to **Wilderness Inquiry** for *Project WILD*. This program will provide adventure leadership training to high school students with intellectual disabilities to help the students build their confidence and leadership skills.

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 \$11 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.

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