



MITSUBISHI ELECTRIC AMERICA FOUNDATION CONTINUES NATIONAL M>PWR INITIATIVE, AWARDS \$1.5 MILLION IN GRANTS

Grants Empower Youth with Disabilities to Lead Productive Lives

WASHINGTON, DC, January 16, 2015 — Mitsubishi Electric America Foundation announces \$1,539,600 in new and continuing grants, as part of its national [M>PWR Initiative](#) designed to empower youth and young people with disabilities to lead productive lives through increased employment.

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. “Through the M>PWR Initiative we hope to address this disparity,” says Kevin R. Webb, senior director of the Mitsubishi Electric America Foundation. “Our goal is to put the collective power of our philanthropic dollars and volunteer efforts and the expertise of our national and community network together to increase employment outcomes for youth and young people with disabilities as they transition to the workforce,” continues Webb.

As part of its [M>PWR Initiative](#), the Foundation has awarded \$569,400 in new grants and \$970,200 in continuing grants to the following national organizations:

Continuing Projects

- The second 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 with disabilities.
- The second 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.
- The second year of a \$187,500/three-year grant to the **Autistic Self-Advocacy Network** to continue its Summer Leadership Academy and extend its successful *Autistic Campus Inclusion* project to the state level.

- The second year of a \$150,000/two-year grant to the **Human Engineering Research Laboratories at the University of Pittsburgh** to support the *Advancing Inclusive Manufacturing (AIM) Program*, a vocational training program in machining and fabrication for veterans and students with disabilities.
- The second year of a \$149,700/two-year grant to **The Washington Center** to support its *Leadership Initiative for Students with Disabilities*, which will provide “Mitsubishi Electric Scholars” with inclusive internship opportunities in Washington, DC.

New Grants

- \$115,000 renewal grant to the **US Business Leadership Network** over the next two years to continue the *Career Link Mentoring Program*. The program places college students and recent graduates with disabilities in a mentoring relationship with business professionals.
- \$196,400 renewal grant with the **US International Council on Disability** over the next three years to support the *Youth in International Development & Affairs Program*, which places college students with disabilities in summer internships with international affairs organizations.
- \$105,000 grant to **The Arc of the United States** over the next three years to support *The Specialisterne Model*, which provides career opportunities in information technology to youth on the Autism Spectrum.
- \$33,000 grant to **United Cerebral Palsy** to support their *LifeLabs Design-athon Project*, which introduces young people with and without disabilities to careers in science, technology engineering and math (STEM) by designing accessible products alongside industry professionals.
- \$120,000 grant to **The HSC Foundation** over the next three years providing matching funds for a *National Conference Support Fund*, *Youth Transitions Collaborative Grants Fund*, and the *Advocates in Disability Awards Program* to support youth and young veterans with disabilities as they successfully transition to adulthood and the world of work.

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 \$13 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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