

The Connecticut General Assembly



House Democrats
Office of House Majority Leader Joe Aresimowicz

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AT&T AWARDS \$15,000 GRANT TO BERLIN YOUTH LEADERSHIP PROGRAM

Funding supports Berlin Upbeat Peer Leadership Program's training for 190 students

BERLIN, CONN., JUNE 18, 2015 — Berlin High School's Upbeat Peer Leadership Program has been awarded a \$15,000 grant from the AT&T Foundation to support its May leadership training weekend scheduled for later this month at Camp Woodstock.

The Berlin High School Upbeat Peer Leadership Program is a student-run organization that involves over 300 students at the high school. This 27-year old comprehensive school and community-based character development and leadership training program is aimed at building decision making skills and providing community service opportunities for Berlin youth.

The AT&T Foundation grant supported a residential weekend training program, from May 15 to 17, that is a critical component of the Upbeat Peer Leadership Program. The weekend training helps to develop leadership and life skills of the student members, including communication skills, team building, resistance education, community service, cooperative learning activities, group dynamics and project development. During the weekend, the participants plan 18 school and community appreciation/service projects that are implemented before the end of the school year.

"We're proud to support such an enriching program that will help develop the skills that local high schoolers need to succeed, both in their educations today and in their careers or community life in the years to come," said Abigail Jewett, Regional Vice President, AT&T Connecticut.

"We're gratified by AT&T's support of such an important part of our peer leadership development program," said Alice Mitchell, Executive Director of the Berlin High School Upbeat Peer Leadership Program. "This grant will directly benefit the 190 students who will spend a weekend focused on developing the skills they need to lead in their school and in their community."

"AT&T is demonstrating their commitment to the Berlin community by funding an important program that empowers our young people and prepares them to lead their peers," House Majority Leader Joe Aresimowicz (D – Berlin/Southington) "I applaud Berlin Upbeat for their commitment to creating tomorrow's leaders."

NOTE: Attached is a photo. Please feel free to publish it!

Suggested Caption: (Left to Right) Alice Mitchell, Executive Director of the Berlin High School Upbeat Peer Leadership Program, Abigail Jewett, Regional Vice President, AT&T Connecticut, Berlin High School Students Andrew Bosco, Angie Perrone, Emily Gombotz and Matt Barden, Francis Kennedy Jr., Principal of Berlin High School, and House Majority Leader Joe Aresimowicz (D-Berlin/Southington), at Berlin High School.

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Joe Aresimowicz is serving his sixth term representing the 30th Assembly District of Berlin and Southington in the Connecticut General Assembly, where he is House Majority Leader.