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*Murray State University's Program of Distinction in TSM Receives Funding for Outreach Project*

On December 16, Murray State University's Program of Distinction in Telecommunications Systems Management (TSM) was presented with a \$16,000 grant check from AT&T to fund a student outreach project entitled Networks-To-Go. Earlier in the fall TSM received \$4,455 from Murray State's Regional Stewardship Program for the project; the recent acquisition of the AT&T grant provided a final amount of \$20,455 to fund the outreach project. Networks-To-Go is a new traveling lab offered by TSM at Murray State and designed for middle and high school students to explore data networking and security. TSM faculty, Marcia Combs and John Hart, took charge of the project and intend to travel to area schools and provide hands on lab demonstrations in routing and switching techniques, wireless communication, network security, and multimedia and data communications. Combs and Hart are willing to work with schools and customize the labs to be designed to supplement each teacher's curriculum.

"We want to work with area high school teachers to augment their technology courses with a look at how telecommunications is used to solve business problems. We also want to provide some hands-on experiences with technologies that are not commonly available in high schools and, of course, have fun doing it," said Hart.

President of AT&T- Kentucky, Mary Pat Regan, visited Murray State's campus to present the \$16,000 grant check by AT&T. Several were in attendance of the event to show support of the TSM program and the Networks-To-Go project including President Randy Dunn, Provost Gary Brockway, and Gina Winchester, Executive Director of Regional Stewardship. The grant money awarded by AT&T continues to demonstrate its tremendous support of the TSM program at Murray State. AT&T has partnered with TSM to sponsor the program's annual AT&T Women in Telecom Golf Day the last two years as well as being involved with the CyberCave program that TSM offers to educate high school students on technology.

Combs commented, "We're hoping that Networks-To-Go will continue the success of CyberCave in providing area high school students with a look into telecommunications systems management as a potential career choice. There is no substitute for getting your hands on real network equipment to learn what happens when you check your email or use your web browser."

The generous support of AT&T and the Regional Stewardship Program provides the opportunity for middle and high school students to see how technology works and how relative it can be in every day activities. Exposing younger generations to rapidly changing technology will introduce the type of knowledge that will motivate the young future leaders. Hart and Combs agree that this is a great opportunity to give students a look at a rapidly growing segment of the job market and have fun at the same time.

