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- 5) Independent Sector "Mission & Market" website
- 6) Assn. of Fundraising Professionals report on High Tech Donors
  
- 7) New Contributor to the HS/HT Funding Bulletin

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1) OSERS has announced that a number of grant guidelines will be available beginning July 2, 2001 with a due date of August 20, 2001. Two may be of interest to HS/HT sites. Information Technology-Based Education and Employment Initiative will have 3 awards at \$492,000 average. The proposed priority is to conduct research on IT-based employment and training strategies to identify barriers at the systems and individual level and to identify and evaluate effective strategies for promoting increased employment opportunities for individuals with disabilities. Projects must:

- (1) Identify and evaluate IT-based training and employment recruitment, hiring and placement strategies, including entrepreneurial opportunities, that promote successful employment for persons with disabilities in the IT industry;
- (2) Identify, develop, and evaluate strategies to assist with overcoming barriers that limit opportunities for advanced skill development and promotions in jobs requiring significant IT knowledge and skills (including training for individuals currently working in IT industry and those in jobs requiring significant expertise with IT);
- (3) Develop and evaluate training programs to inform employers, educators, and individuals with disabilities about effective strategies that will assist with overcoming barriers for IT-based training and improve IT based employment opportunities; and
- (4) Develop and implement in the first year of the grant, in consultation with the NIDRR-funded National Center for the Dissemination of Disability Research (NCDDR), a plan to disseminate the research.

Strategies for Promoting IT Based Employment and Training for Individuals with Disabilities will have a single award of \$333,333. The proposed priority is to:

- (1) Identify, develop, and evaluate strategies that assist with overcoming barriers that limit or preclude access to IT education and training in secondary, postsecondary, and vocational education programs;
- (2) Identify and evaluate private and public partnerships between educational entities and businesses to provide education or skill-based training that assist individuals with disabilities in preparing for and securing employment in the IT industry or employment in jobs requiring expertise and training in IT; and
- (3) Develop and implement in the first year of the grant, in consultation with the NIDRR-funded National Center for the Dissemination of Disability Research (NCDDR), a plan to disseminate the project's research results to the appropriate audiences including, but not limited to, educators, employers, manufacturers, persons with disabilities, disability

organizations, technology service providers, businesses, and journals. Check <http://www.ed.gov/GrantApps/> in early July for details.

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2) The AT&T Foundation invests in projects that are at the intersection of community needs and AT&T's business interests. Emphasis is placed on programs that serve the needs of people in communities where AT&T has a significant business presence, initiatives that use technology in innovative ways, and programs in which AT&T employees are actively involved as contributors or volunteers. AT&T Foundation funds are typically distributed through invitational programs or through projects that are proactively developed with nonprofit organizations. The website lists local support grants ranging from \$1,000 to \$50,000 for non-profits in 14 HS/HT states including CA, CO, DC, FL, GA, IL, MD, NJ, OH, OR, PA, TX, WI, and VA. The website also mentions support for innovative programs that focus on helping people achieve self-sufficiency and lead productive lives. Visit the foundation at <http://www.att.com/foundation>.

AT&T CARES (Community Awards Recognizing Employee Service) is program for AT&T employees and retirees that recognizes and supports volunteerism. Among other things, it allows volunteers to apply for grants ranging from \$250 to \$5,000 for the nonprofit institutions where they volunteer their time. Other aspects of the program, and volunteer groups such as Telephone Pioneers, are described at <http://www.att.com/giving/>.

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3) Mervyn's considers requests of \$500 to \$2500 at the store level. Eleven HS/HT sites are served by Mervyn's stores in CA, CO, MI, OR, TX, and WA. Mervyn's partners with local schools, arts organizations and social action organizations to improve the quality of life for the families, especially the children, who reflect the diversity within their store communities. The Mervyn focus remains on families, education and arts. Proposals of up to 3 pages are reviewed by the store manager and applicants are notified within 60-90 days. It's best to apply between March 1-October 1, prior to the holiday shopping season and fiscal year end. Guidelines for the letter and store addresses are found at [http://www.mervyns.com/mervyns\\_group/community/community\\_main.jhtml](http://www.mervyns.com/mervyns_group/community/community_main.jhtml)

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4) A new Ford Foundation Report "Win-Win: Competitive Advantage Through Community Investment" highlights successful community investment strategies of top companies including Enron, Dell, DreamWorks SKG, Pfizer, IBM, Chevron, Sears, Bank of America, MetLife, Xerox, and Salomon Smith Barney. The report provides the corporate viewpoint and numerous examples of investing in workforce development in urban locations. [http://www.fordfound.org/publications/recent\\_articles/docs/winwin\\_brochure.pdf](http://www.fordfound.org/publications/recent_articles/docs/winwin_brochure.pdf)

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5) Independent Sector has noted the growing trend of corporate - nonprofit partnerships and have responded with a new project, Mission & Market: The Resource Center for Effective Corporate-Nonprofit Partnerships. The website will offer a wide variety of resources nonprofit and corporate executives

need to help them build effective partnerships that enhance both mission and business goals-and serve to build the public trust for the nonprofit sector as a whole. The starting point is sample policies on partnership from some large non-profits.

[http://www.independentsector.org/mission\\_market/overview.htm](http://www.independentsector.org/mission_market/overview.htm)

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6) The Association of Fundraising Professionals has posted a study of high tech donors.

[http://www.afpnet.org/tier3\\_cd.cfm?folder\\_id=868&content\\_item\\_id=2065](http://www.afpnet.org/tier3_cd.cfm?folder_id=868&content_item_id=2065)

They found some common characteristics of high tech donors that could be valuable in framing an approach to many corporate donors, including:

- An insistence on research and "due diligence" for the start of any new venture.
- A strategic thinking that combines both a global view and a broad systems approach.
- A strong belief in the centrality to success of teamwork, partnering and collaboration rather than competition.
- An idealistic and optimistic belief in the capacity of the individual to make a difference, especially on an intellectual level, which comes from seeing the revolutionary effect that their problem-solving approach has had in business.
- A fundamental belief in the development and application of human capital as the basis for solving society's problems.
- A conviction that innovation, a reassessment of circumstances, and constant change are crucial to progress.

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7) Lisa Wahl, a grant-writing consultant who specializes in programs for people with disabilities, joined the InfoUse team in May to produce the HS/HT funding alerts. She served as Executive Director of the Center for Accessible Technology in Berkeley, CA for ten years and is active with the Alliance for Technology Access, working to ensure that people with disabilities have full access to technology. She welcomes your feedback and suggestions on the newsletter and can be reached at [lwahl@pacbell.net](mailto:lwahl@pacbell.net).

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Each month InfoUse e-mails a Funding Bulletin to High School/High Tech sites to provide up-to-date information on funding opportunities, tips on proposal writing, profile innovative funding strategies used by HS/HT sites, and inform sites about significant program events planned for coming months. This service is provided through a management support contract to InfoUse from the Department of Labor.