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Computer Clubhouse Receives \$1 Million Grant from U.S. Department of Justice

3-Year Grant Will Increase Mentor Impact on Youth Across the Country

Boston, MA – The Intel Computer Clubhouse Network at the Museum of Science, Boston, is pleased to announce that it has been awarded a \$1 Million grant from the U.S. Department of Justice, Office of Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention. These funds will support the new Project IMPACTS (Increasing Mentor Participation and Commitment to Success) initiative, aimed at strengthening the delivery of mentor services at Computer Clubhouses across the nation.

With this 3-year grant, the Intel Computer Clubhouse Network is developing a community of practice to support a more robust mentoring program at Computer Clubhouses in underserved communities around the country. Five Clubhouses will be undertaking the pilot program, with the ultimate goal of rolling out the program across the entire Network. This program aims to strengthen the Computer Clubhouse model, which provides a safe out-of-school learning environment for youth to work with adult mentors to explore their own interests, develop skills, and build self-confidence through technology. The five participating Clubhouses (located in Arizona, California, Colorado, Michigan, and Minnesota) will focus on recruiting, training and retaining high-quality mentors to work with their youth to increase academic engagement and motivation while decreasing risky behavior in which youth might otherwise engage.

The goals for Project IMPACTS include:

- Fostering long-term mentoring relationships between youth and adults;
- Increasing academic engagement and high school completion among youth, while building awareness of and interest in STEM fields and careers;
- Increasing and ensuring positive behavior choices among Clubhouse youth;
- Building a sustainable community of practice devoted to mentor programming across the international Clubhouse Network;
- Establishing the Clubhouse as a prime “go-to” destination for prospective volunteers

“Though mentors are critical to our learning approach, many Clubhouses aren’t easily able to find or keep enough mentors to support their youth members effectively,” said Gail Breslow, Director of the Intel Computer Clubhouse

Network. “Through *Project IMPACTS*, every Clubhouse youth will benefit from effective mentoring relationships that support STEM interests as well as positive character and leadership traits, life skills, and planning for success.”

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About the Computer Clubhouse

Founded in 1993 by the Museum of Science, Boston, in collaboration with the MIT Media Laboratory, the Computer Clubhouse is designed to empower youth from all backgrounds to become more capable, creative, and confident learners. Grounded in research from the fields of education, psychology, cognitive science, and youth development, the Computer Clubhouse and its learning model have gained international recognition among educators and community leaders. Using the “flagship” Clubhouse at the Museum of Science, Boston, as a model, the Intel Computer Clubhouse Network supports 100 community-based Clubhouses in 20 countries around the world, providing thousands of youth with access to resources, skills, and experiences to help them succeed in their careers, contribute to their communities, and lead outstanding lives. To learn more about the Intel Computer Clubhouse Network, please visit www.computerclubhouse.org.

About the Office of Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention

OJJDP provides national leadership, coordination and resources to prevent and respond to juvenile delinquency and victimization. OJJDP supports states and communities in their efforts to develop and implement effective and coordinated prevention and intervention programs and to improve the juvenile justice system so that it protects public safety, holds offenders accountable, and provides treatment and rehabilitative services tailored to the needs of juveniles and their families. Additional information about OJJDP is available at www.ojjdp.gov.