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KSD receives \$25k for video equipment

By STEPHANIE SCHELL

Kentucky School for the Deaf received a \$25,000 check Friday from the AT&T Foundation to purchase new video conference equipment for the campus.

"Who is better to benefit than deaf and hard of hearing students?" said Bill Stearns with the Office of Special Instructional Services at the Kentucky Department of Education.

Virginia Moore, interim executive director of Kentucky Commission on the Deaf and Hard of Hearing, said this technological step is one that will help bring deaf and hard of hearing students closer to federal No Child Left Behind mandates that all students be on the same educational level by 2014.

"Because of (AT&T) we can now try to meet that goal," she added.

KSD and ConnectKentucky's No Child Left Offline program teamed up to write the grant that earned the campus the money.

Because deaf and hard of hearing students rely so heavily on innovative technology and visual aides for learning, the new video conference equipment is expected to provide essential facilitation between students and staff of KSD, and between the community, their families and other schools.

"We want to be able to connect everybody, everywhere," David McFaddin with AT&T Pioneers.

While a representative from AT&T and ConnectKentucky conducted their own presentation, students put on a presentation of their own to say thanks.

The elementary school cheerleaders said thank you with a cheer, other students made thank you cards and wrote letters of appreciation that were bound in a book. Throughout the crowd that gathered at Walker Hall Friday, students held signs they made letting AT&T know their contribution did not go unnoticed.

"We just want to say thank you for your generosity," said student Nurur Rahman-Chowdhury as he presented a card. "It will help our communication and education."

Although students expressed their gratitude for the technological advancement, KSD instructor Clyde Mohan said, "The teachers really appreciate it."

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