



*A Union of Professionals*

**Statement by Randi Weingarten,  
President, American Federation of Teachers,  
On the AT&T Merger with T-Mobile**

**WASHINGTON**—As a union with over a million educators, we are very involved in ensuring that our nation’s children are educated for the demands of the 21<sup>st</sup> century and beyond. One aspect of this is making sure our country, and our schools, have the most up-to-date technology. However, for more than a decade, we have continued to fall behind nearly every other developed economy on broadband speed and build out.

The AT&T acquisition of T-Mobile is a positive step for the expansion of broadband communications networks. At a time when access to high speed broadband defines access to educational opportunities, economic development, job training, health care and government services, far too few Americans have reliable and affordable access. Not only will T-Mobile customers get quick access to the AT&T network, but as part of the merger, AT&T is committed to build out to nearly every part of the United States within four years. This will help close the digital divide, particularly in rural areas. Inner-city students will get increased access to resources. And increasing internet speed, where the U.S. ranks 25<sup>th</sup> in the world behind countries like Romania, will make it possible to use on-line educational tools wherever one lives.

T-Mobile was searching for a buyer so a merger with one or another company seems inevitable. The alternative to AT&T is Sprint. Sprint has a poor track record when it comes to mergers and acquisitions; for example, Sprint never successfully integrated Nextel. Sprint would also be in a significantly weaker financial position post-acquisition and therefore probably unable to upgrade its technology or engage in a build out. Furthermore, it outsources the majority of its workforce and workers do not have a voice on the job.

AT&T is the only wireless provider that engages in true collaboration with its workforce. We believe that providing workers the opportunity to have a voice on the job is an essential part of human dignity, as well as a fair and sustainable economy. The worldwide labor movement has focused global attention on T-Mobile’s bad labor rights history, which will be reversed under an AT&T acquisition.

AT&T with T-Mobile can bring real value to our nation’s children and to our economy. We will keep a watchful eye and provide our input as this acquisition is thoroughly reviewed.