

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Media Contact: Rhonda Bannard

(602370-3560)/Rhonda@inspiredconnections.net

AWEE RECEIVES \$60,000 GRANT FROM BANK OF AMERICA CHARITABLE FOUNDATION TO SUPPORT 2008 WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT PROGRAMS

Contribution to Arizona Workforce Organization Demonstrates Bank of America 's Commitment to Building Healthy Communities and a Productive Economy

PHOENIX, Ariz. (August 7, 2008) -- Arizona Women's Education & Employment (AWEE), Arizona's premier workforce development organization, announced today that it has received a \$60,000 grant from the Bank of America Charitable Foundation, Inc. for FY 2008. The funds will be used to support the broad array of workforce development programs AWEE offers to women, men and families seeking the dignity and self-reliance that comes with a good job and a steady paycheck. AWEE also plays a vital role in supporting area businesses with ongoing career development training and on-site workshops in effective work habits, money management and soft skills such as teamwork, decision-making and leadership.

"Bank of America's generous contribution to AWEE is especially welcome now, when tough economic conditions are making it increasingly difficult for many Arizonans to support their families and become valued and contributing members of their community," said Marie Sullivan, president and CEO of AWEE. "This grant is a clear demonstration of our organizations' shared commitment to help every individual find meaningful work and become a stakeholder in Arizona's economic future."

"We're pleased and proud to support AWEE in its mission to help Arizona's families better their lives by achieving financial independence and economic stability," said Kellie Manthe, Market Development Officer for Bank of America Arizona. "This remarkable organization has achieved impressive results by taking a comprehensive, holistic approach to workforce development that addresses not only education and training, but also the full range of social services needed to ensure that families are healthy, safe and secure. These are not glamorous issues, but they are integral to AWEE's record of success in transforming lives and communities."

About AWEE

Arizona Women's Education & Employment has been successfully investing in women, families and this community through life and career success planning, training and support for more than 27 years. To date, AWEE has served and supported nearly 50,000 individuals in their quest to attain quality jobs that create positive changes and successful beginnings for themselves and their families. The organization is currently placing almost 80 percent of its participants into new and better jobs paying an

average of almost \$11 per hour, with an average wage increase of 125 percent after four months of work. For more information, contact AWEE at (602) 223-4333 or visit AWEE.org.

Bank of America Corporate Philanthropy

Building on a long-standing tradition of investing in the communities it serves, Bank of America is in its fourth year of achieving an unprecedented 10-year goal to donate \$1.5 billion to nonprofit organizations engaged in improving the health and vitality of their neighborhoods. Funded by Bank of America, the Bank of America Charitable Foundation will give more than \$225 million in 2008, making the bank the most generous financial institution in the world and the second largest donor of all U.S. corporations in cash contributions. Bank of America approaches giving through a national strategy called "neighborhood excellence" under which it works with local leaders to identify and meet the most pressing needs of individual communities. Through Team Bank of America, bank associate volunteers contributed more than 650,000 hours in 2007 to enhance the quality of life in their communities nationwide. For more information about Bank of America Corporate Philanthropy, please visit www.bankofamerica.com/foundation.

#