



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Christina Thigpen
Northwood Office
704-496-1570
cthigpen@northwoodoffice.com

Jenny Myers
E2D
215-704-7627
jenny@e-2-d.org

BALLANTYNE MAKES CONTRIBUTION TO E2D TO LAUNCH EXPANSION OF RE-IMAGE CLT PROGRAM AT SOUTH MECKLENBURG HIGH SCHOOL

CHARLOTTE, N.C. (December 5, 2017) – In the spirit of the season, Northwood Office has donated to [Eliminate the Digital Divide](#) (E2D) in honor of its tenants and customers in [Ballantyne](#). With the gift, E2D will expand its Re-Image CLT – Powered by Google Fiber program with the creation of Re-Image CLT South at South Mecklenburg High School, which is scheduled to open first quarter of 2018.

E2D launched Re-Image CLT in early 2017 on the campus of West Charlotte High School to catalyze change among Charlotte’s youth while providing better opportunities for upward mobility via technology. This new facility will be E2D’s fourth computer lab in the Re-Image CLT initiative. Re-Image CLT’s mission is to positively transform student lives to help them obtain the tech skills necessary to be successful in school right now and ultimately become highly-qualified leaders of the 21st Century workforce.

With the support of Ballantyne’s gift, the Re-Image CLT Computer Lab at South Mecklenburg High School will train and employ 12 South Mecklenburg students as computer technicians to refurbish and re-image decommissioned corporate laptops. These computers, in turn, will be distributed among the 20,000+ CMS families that remain on the wrong side of the digital divide. Lab technicians will also participate in a Technology Academy that will focus on IT industry exposure led by Charlotte’s premier technology corporations and organizations.

“We are delighted to contribute to E2D on behalf of our tenants in Ballantyne this holiday season,” said Tom Pizzo, executive vice president at Northwood Office. “Nearly all students say they are required to use the internet to complete homework assignments, and we hope this lab will equip thousands of students with the tools they need to be successful in life by bridging the digital divide in Charlotte.”

Pat Millen, E2D founder and president says, “E2D embraces a bold vision of Charlotte-Mecklenburg as a community that cares about all of our children and youth - regardless of income, race or ZIP codes and where all our children feel they belong, have big dreams and find opportunities to achieve those dreams. This gift from our friends at Northwood Office and the Ballantyne Community is going to immediately positively transform a lot of lives.”

Since 2013, Ballantyne has chosen a nonprofit organization to support in appreciation of its tenant community instead of a traditional holiday gift.

About Ballantyne

Ballantyne, a 535-acre, master-planned business community in Charlotte, North Carolina, includes more than four million square feet of Class A office space and nearly 600 hotel rooms as well as restaurants, medical and retail amenities. The Corporate Park, which has been recognized as the International Office Park of the Year by the Building Owners and Managers Association, is zoned for in excess of six million square feet of office space. Ballantyne is positioned in the heart of Charlotte's largest concentration of educated and experienced labor. Current corporate clients include Wells Fargo, Premier, TIAA, Snyder's-Lance, Synchrony Financial, Sonic Automotive, and Siemens, among others. For more information, visit ballantynecorporate.com.

About Northwood Office

Northwood Office was established by Northwood Investors LLC – a privately-held, global real estate investment and management firm – to provide a complete approach to fulfilling office space needs. Northwood Office specializes in commercial development, leasing and property management. For more information, visit northwoodoffice.com.

About E2D – Eliminate the Digital Divide

Since 2013 E2D has helped provide over 4,200 digital solutions for low-income families in the Charlotte Region. E2D obtains laptop donations from generous corporations and refurbishes them to distribute to students. E2D also helps source low-cost access to broadband solutions as well as provides digital literacy training for its families.

E2D is committed to providing exposure to workforce development opportunities and IT skill training for CMS youth through its RE-IMAGE CLT initiative. E2D hires, trains and employs some of Charlotte's most at-risk youth as computer lab technicians to refurbish laptops that will in turn be distributed to their fellow CMS peers.

E2D has received many awards and acclaim for its work including: The Blue Diamond Award for Non-Profit Technology from IT-ology. E2D was also named the Most Innovative Digital Inclusion Leader in the USA by Next Century Cities & the National League of Cities and, most recently was named one of the "Top 30 Technologists, Transformers and Trailblazers" by The Center for Digital Education. For more information, visit e-2-d.org.

###