**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
[DATE]**

**CONTACT:
[Your Program Name]**

**[Contact Name]**
**[Phone]**

**[E-mail]**

**Summer Learning Day Celebration
*[Your City]*** *Event Part of Nationwide Celebration of Summer Programs*

**[Note: Include a picture of your event if possible!]**

**[Your City]-** Hundreds of children, parents, business and community leaders came together on July 12, 2018 at **[program name]** to promote the critical role summer programs play in keeping kids safe and healthy, supporting academic growth, and helping working families as part of Georgia’s *Summer Learning Day* celebration. This event brought leaders together to learn about and celebrate the positive results of summer programming.

**[Add event specifics, similar to the following]:** Attendees saw students conduct scientific experiments and perform music, while **[insert names of any leaders in attendance, such as your mayor, school officials, business leaders]**, parents and students discussed the importance of afterschool programs.

“Throughout Georgia, summer programs provide students with a safe place to go and the opportunity to continue learning,” said Katie Landes, Director of Georgia Statewide Afterschool Network, a public-private collaborative to improve the quality of afterschool. “Summer learning programs have been shown to enhance math and reading skills in students with high attendance.”

During the summer, middle- and high-income students are gaining knowledge through a myriad of experiences – going on vacation, attending museums, and having access to books and other learning materials. Low-income students often lack opportunities during the summer and actually start the school year off in a worse position than where they finished the previous school year. This is often referred to as the “summer slide” and accounts for about two-thirds of the achievement gap in ninth grade reading.

Quality summer programs can drastically help mitigate these effects for low-income youth and are a critical strategy in eliminating the opportunity and achievement gaps that persist across communities in Georgia. However, many families struggle to find high-quality, affordable summer programs in Georgia. According to a survey conducted by the Afterschool Alliance, 25% of Georgia families reported having one child enrolled in a summer program, while 42% reported that they would like to enroll their children in a program if it were available. Furthermore, the same survey showed that Georgia families pay on average $302 per week for their child’s summer learning program, higher than the national average.

**[Add a quote from attendee such as a parent or a community leader, similar to the following]:** "Children rely on programs such as **[your program]** for a safe and enriching place to go during the summer months,” said **[parent or community leader]**. “It is nice to come out and celebrate what these programs do for Georgia’s youth year round.”

**Insert a description of your program here – how long your program been in operation, how many children are enrolled in your program, the communities/neighborhoods that you serve, any feedback you have gotten from K-12 teachers and/or parents about the impact of your program on a child, etc. We recommend that descriptions be limited to 60-80 words.**

**# # #**

About The Georgia Statewide Afterschool Network

The Georgia Statewide Afterschool Network (GSAN) ([www.afterschoolga.org](http://www.afterschoolga.org)) is a public-private collaborative that envisions a day when all communities in Georgia have access to high-quality afterschool and summer learning programs. Our mission is to advance, connect, and support quality afterschool and summer learning programs to promote the success of children and youth throughout Georgia.