**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

**[DATE]**

**CONTACT:**

**[Your Program Name]**

**[Contact Name]**

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**Summer Learning Week Celebration**

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

**[Your City]-** Hundreds of children, parents, business and community leaders will come together on **[July 8-13, 2019]** for *Summer Learning Week* to promote the critical role summer programs play in keeping kids safe and healthy, supporting academic growth, and helping working families.

In **[city/county], [name of program]** will be holding a celebration as part of *Summer Learning Week* on **[date]** from **[time]** to **[time]**. **[Insert information about your celebration here. What activities will be taking place? Will there be a tour? Is anyone speaking? (50 words maximum)]**

“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 while letting youth explore new interests and have fun.”

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 someone familiar with your program such as]:** "Unfortunately, we don’t have enough summer programs to accommodate this demand,” said **[program staff/director]**. “This event, like events throughout the state, will showcase the high quality summer programming that should be available to all of Georgia’s youth.”

**Insert a description of your program here – how long your program has 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.**

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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 high quality afterschool and summer learning programs to promote the success of children and youth throughout Georgia.