



A New Vision for Summer Learning in California

**Media Alert – July 25, 2011**

## **Hundreds of Gilroy Students Celebrate Graduation from Summer Learning Programs**

### **Media Event**

**Gilroy, CA** – More than 500 low-income Gilroy students enrolled in Gilroy Unified School District's premier summer learning program, "Super Power Summer Camp," will celebrate their graduation on Friday, July 29 with a summer learning celebration that would make Michelle Obama proud.

**What:** Hundreds of Gilroy elementary students will explore Gilroy Gardens Theme Park, reinforcing their summer learning goals of visiting new people and places in their community and learning about nature and Gilroy's unique connection to agriculture.

**When:** Friday, July 29, 2011 from 11:00am-3:30pm

**Where:** 3050 Hecker Pass Highway (Hwy 152), Gilroy, CA 95020

#### **Interview Opportunities Include:**

- Low-income Gilroy students enrolled in summer learning programs
- Gilroy, Bay Area and national experts on summertime learning programs

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Summer learning programs are vitally important in preventing student "summer learning loss" and engaging low-income students in meaningful educational enrichment activities during the summer months.

Summer learning programs contribute substantially to children's education, with a vast body of research showing that children's participation in summer learning programs is a major factor in their academic success.

A lack of summer learning and enrichment opportunities leads to "summer learning loss" – a loss in students' academic skills and knowledge during the summer months.



Summer learning loss, which is cumulative over time, contributes directly to a widening of the achievement gap between low-income and middle-income students. A lack of summer learning opportunities also contributes to increased student drop-out rates.

Children from low-income households who lack access to summer learning programs also disproportionately gain weight in summer because they lack access to the recreational programs and meal programs available during the school year and spend more time watching TV and being sedentary, thus increasing their risk of childhood obesity.

**In California, the vast majority of low-income youth lack access to summer learning opportunities, putting them at increased risk for obesity and academic jeopardy:**

- Only 27% of California children participate in summer learning programs.
- 48% of parents making less than \$35,000 did not enroll their child in any summer program.
- The majority of low-income youth don't attend a summer school or program, and a substantial number are taking care of themselves without adult supervision in the summer while their parents are away at work.
- Latino parents (32%) and African-American parents (31%) are more likely to say that there are no high-quality summer programs available in their neighborhood, compared with 15% of Asian parents and 20% of white parents.

More information about summer learning in California is available from the **Partnership for Children and Youth** at [www.partnerforchildren.org](http://www.partnerforchildren.org) and <http://www.facebook.com/SummerMatters2You>

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