



A New Vision for Summer Learning in California

Media Alert – July 25, 2011

HUNDREDS OF SACRAMENTO STUDENTS GRADUATE FROM “SUMMER OF SERVICE”

More than 800 SCUSD Students Trade Lazy Summer Days for Serving their Communities

Media Event

[Sacramento, CA] [July 25, 2011] – Research shows that “millennials” – teens and 20-somethings are civic-minded and socially conscious. Proof of that trend is apparent in Sacramento, where more than 800 middle and high school students volunteered to spend six weeks of their summer vacation serving the community.

The teens participated in “Summer of Service,” Sacramento City Unified School District’s innovative, service-learning initiative that helps students develop their leadership and teamwork skills and gives the community teams of enthusiastic young helpers.

To celebrate the students and their work, SCUSD is hosting a “Summer of Service Showcase” from 9am – 12pm on Thursday, July 28, at John F. Kennedy High School.

At this tradeshow-like event, teens will showcase their summer service learning projects and answer questions.

WHAT: More than 800 Sacramento students will showcase their summer service projects at SCUSD’s flagship “Summer of Service” graduation celebration.

WHEN: Thursday July 28, 9:00am- 12:00pm

WHERE: John F. Kennedy High School, 6715 Gloria Drive, Sacramento, CA 95831

INTERVIEW OPPORTUNITIES INCLUDE:

- Sacramento students graduating from “Summer of Service” program
- Local parents and SCUSD education leaders
- Bay Area and national experts on summer learning programs

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SCUSD’s “Summer of Service” (SOS) Program provides incoming ninth grade students with a free six-week summertime service-learning program that enables them to serve their communities, develop leadership skills and earn credits toward their high school diplomas.

By working diligently on innovative student-centered service learning projects in their community, Summer of Service students gained invaluable experience in working with community partners and developing team-building, collaboration and technology skills that will help them succeed socially and academically as they begin the new school year.



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 and <http://www.facebook.com/SummerMatters2You>

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