



## **FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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## **GREATER ENRICHMENT PROGRAM NAMED COMMUNITY PROGRAM OF THE YEAR**

– Greater Enrichment Program, Inc., selected as the 2016 recipient of the  
Community Program of the Year by North Carolina’s Center for Afterschool Programs –

CHARLOTTE, N.C. – Greater Enrichment Program, Inc. (GEP), a 40-year-old, not-for-profit, afterschool academic and cultural enrichment program, has been selected as the 2016 Community Program of the Year by North Carolina’s Center for Afterschool Programs (NC CAP), an extension of the Public School Forum of North Carolina. Competing against more than 6,000 afterschool programs that serve more than 150,000 children in North Carolina, GEP has received the designation based on the quality of its educational and cultural programming, including mentoring, tutoring, STEM activities, student engagement, academic growth and parent/family activities and programming.

“GEP has consistently provided access to a high quality of programming and service to their community for 40 years,” said Del Ruff, director of NC CAP. “They have strong partnerships with neighborhoods, schools and other community organizations. In 2015, GEP had 100 percent parent participation at their events. This shows that afterschool programs can engage parents at a time that is convenient and can meet their needs for engagement in their children’s academic and social growth.”

GEP will be presented with the award at NC CAP’s Gala Awards event at Raleigh Marriott Center City on Tuesday, March 22, 2016 at 6 p.m. The gala is part of NC CAP’s three-day Synergy Conference that brings afterschool and extended learning providers and supporters together for training and sharing of best practices. NC CAP serves as the comprehensive, statewide network of afterschool stakeholders in North Carolina, bringing state agencies, state and local policymakers, afterschool providers and the private sector together to increase access to high-quality afterschool programs for all children and youth in North Carolina.

“This is such a huge honor for Greater Enrichment Program, for the staff, but, most importantly, for the children and families we serve,” said Mike Griffin, GEP board chairman. “Our goal has always been to provide a safe, high-quality program and amazing experiences to our children and families, and this award is a rubber stamp of approval letting us know we’ve exceeded our goal.”

## **GEP Named Community Program of the Year**

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### **About GEP**

Founded in 1975, Greater Enrichment Program (GEP) is a licensed, not-for-profit afterschool academic, cultural and social enrichment program that serves at-risk, elementary-aged children in the Charlotte community. GEP operates at three sites in Charlotte Mecklenburg Schools, and all services, including transportation, are of no cost to participants and their families. By providing support to the whole family, GEP helps children gain knowledge, confidence and character to achieve their personal best in school and in their community. For more information, visit [www.gepinc.org](http://www.gepinc.org).

### **About the Public School Forum of North Carolina**

The Public School Forum is a non-profit policy think tank formed in 1985 to bring business people, policymakers, and educators together to focus on educational innovations and research. Its mission is “to shape a world-class public school education that supports all children in reaching their full potential and drives a vibrant North Carolina economy.” Some of the programs affiliated with the Forum’s portfolio include the North Carolina Institute for Education Policymakers, the North Carolina Center for Afterschool Programs (NC CAP), and the Education Policy Fellowship Program. The Forum also produces policy reports and analyses, including the annual North Carolina Local School Finance Report. For details on the Forum’s work, visit the website at [www.ncforum.org](http://www.ncforum.org). For details on NC CAP’s work, visit the website at [www.nccap.net](http://www.nccap.net).

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