

Practice Makes Perfect Offers Free Summer Programming for 5,000 NYC Public School Students

New York, NY (June 12th, 2020) – To address the impact of COVID19 and mitigate the summer learning loss, Practice Makes Perfect (PMP) in partnership with the Charles and Lynn Schusterman Family Foundation and The Heckscher Foundation for Children through a \$1.4 million dollar grant have created a free virtual summer academic program for up to 5,000 NYC public school students who are completing Grades 3 – 8. The program is open to students attending both district and charter schools.

Over the summer, children in low-income neighborhoods [lose more than two months](#) of their knowledge when they are not engaged in any learning. Summer 2020 is anticipated to be even more challenging given the disruptions in their learning that started in March. According to an [analysis conducted by McKinsey & Company on the impact of COVID19 on learning](#), the average student is expected to fall seven months behind academically, **while black and Hispanic students could experience even greater learning losses, equivalent to 10 months for black children and nine months for Latinos.**

In an effort to prevent the losses from compounding, PMP has designed an engaging online summer experience to help students combat the feeling of isolation and build on their knowledge in math and reading while having fun. The 18-day, 6-week summer program consists of 1.5 hours of live instruction with a PMP Teaching Fellow and one hour of independent learning work 3x per week (capping screen time to 7.5 hours per week).

NYC's public school system is the largest in the nation. Over 70 percent of students are economically disadvantaged and more than three quarters identify as minority. PMP's commitment to high-need communities has been clear from day one. Karim Abouelnaga, Founder and CEO, was raised by a single mother on government aid in Queens. As the second oldest of seven, he was raised in an environment where the learning stopped when school ended.

"In an unprecedented moment, our company has an obligation to create certainty and stability, especially across some of NYC's highest-need communities." Abouelnaga explains, "This work would not be possible without the generosity of our foundation partners. This is a beautiful example of a public-private partnership stepping up to fill a void at a critical moment."

The deadline to apply is Friday, June 26th. You can apply by visiting the Practice Makes Perfect website at <http://www.practicemakesperfect.org/> and clicking on Virtual Summer at the top of the page.

About Practice Makes Perfect Practice Makes Perfect (PMP) is a Benefit Corporation that partners K-12 schools to operate high-impact programs before, during, and after school hours.

Since 2010, PMP has served over 10,000 low-income children, created over 2,000 seasonal jobs, and trained over 500 aspiring educators. PMP has been recognized by former president Bill Clinton, Echoing Green, TED, Forbes 30 Under 30, and Goldman Sachs 10,000 Small Businesses. Additionally, PMP's work has been featured in The New York Times, USA Today, The Atlantic, Bloomberg, NPR, Forbes, ABC 7, NY1, Entrepreneur, and dozens of other media. In 2017, PMP was honored as Best for The World by B Lab for its impact on its customers and its governance practices.

Press Contact: Social Media Contacts: PMP Communications Twitter: PMPusa
Communications@practicemakesperfect.org Instagram: PMPusa 646-767-6936
Facebook: Practice Makes Perfect

About the Charles and Lynn Schusterman Foundation The Charles and Lynn Schusterman Family Foundation (Schusterman) is a global organization that seeks to improve lives, strengthen communities and advance equity. Our philanthropic vision is grounded in a commitment to pursue justice, repair the world and treat all people with dignity and civility. We invest in efforts to improve public education in the United States, strengthen the Jewish people and Israel, and address the needs of marginalized individuals and communities.

About The Heckscher Foundation for Children For nearly 100 years, the Heckscher Foundation for Children has worked to level the playing field for underserved youth, principally in New York. We support innovative, results-driven programs and partnerships, and focus our giving on education, including college access and persistence, workforce training and jobs access, and arts education that improves achievement in the classroom. Our venture philanthropy approach uses three principal funding strategies— catalytic giving, strategic partnerships, and targeted problem-solving—that look for inflection points where our funding has the potential to change the course of a young person's life at a key juncture. Learn more at heckscherfoundation.org.

###