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MeckEd Provides Year Two of Free Afterschool Programming

Charlotte, NC (July 29, 2019) — MeckEd, an education focused nonprofit committed to ensuring access to the skills, knowledge, and experiences necessary for young people to thrive, is addressing the need for high quality, affordable afterschool programming. Through the generosity of the Gambrell Foundation and a growing family of funders, MeckEd will provide funding to seven nonprofit Out-of-School Time (OST) providers to offer their programs at Albemarle Road, James Martin and Sedgewild Middle schools through its Charlotte NEXT program during the 2019-2020 school year. This is MeckEd's second year providing funding for OST programs through Charlotte NEXT's School Partnership grants. Out of the seven programs, three are first-year grantees in the partnership.

According to the NC Public School Forum report "Top 10 Education Issues: 2019," two-thirds of North Carolina students would enroll in afterschool programs if granted access to them. Discovery Place, Firm Foundations, Fly Math Club, Girls on the Run, Innovative Learning, Let Me Run, and Soy Latino Como Tu will share a total of \$116,630 in funding to serve approximately 200 middle school students beginning this fall. The combination of programs at each school will bring cultural awareness, STEM through the arts, promote teen and family self-sufficiency, and support healthy and active lifestyles. Sally Gambrell, president, Gambrell Foundation said, "We believe all young people should have access to the kinds of experiences that build social capital, foster creativity, and nurture a love for learning. That's why we support MeckEd and Charlotte NEXT."

Along with the Gambrell Foundation, MeckEd also thanks Charlotte-Mecklenburg Schools (CMS) for their support for the School Partnerships. Brian Kingsley, Chief Academic Officer for CMS, supports MeckEd by serving on the Charlotte NEXT Advisory Board. "The work of providing a sound education to all of our students requires us to put people first," said Kingsley. "It's critical that we realize educators are in the business of building not only students, but communities. That's why I deeply support cultivating partnerships with community entities like MeckEd because they not only provide an extension to our school day for many of our students but also empower entire families with hope, stability and engagement. We are truly in this together." Hannah Rankin, executive director, Gambrell Foundation added, "We have long recognized the need for high quality enrichment experiences for young people."

About MeckEd

MeckEd's mission is to ensure that all young people in Mecklenburg county public schools have the knowledge, skills, and experiences that lead to successful and productive lives.

About Charlotte NEXT

The Goal of Charlotte NEXT is to increase the number of students in 6-8 grades, who are currently attending Charlotte-Mecklenburg Schools (CMS) most challenged schools, participating in high quality Out of School Time programs.

Contact: Tiyana Brown | Director of Charlotte NEXT | tbrown@mecked.org



5104 Reagan Drive | Suite 12 | Charlotte, North Carolina 28206
(P) 704. 335. 0100 | info@mecked.org

www.mecked.org