PRESS RELEASE

CELEBRATION OF LEARNING ENERGIZES YOUTH AND FAMILIES AS FUN, FUTURE-READY LEARNING FESTIVAL TAKES ROOT IN 9 U.S. REGIONS

 Called ‘Remake Learning Days Across America,’ 650+ free, hands-on learning events to reach estimated 40,000 children and families

(PITTSBURGH, PA) Apr. 10 In Mister Rogers’ neighborhood of Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania, a grassroots learning initiative that activates entire communities to serve as a child’s “learning playground” will take root this spring in places far from Fred Rogers’ hometown. From the dense neighborhoods of Chicago’s South and West Sides to the rolling hills of eastern Kentucky and beyond, educators and volunteers in nine U.S. regions will host more than 650 hands-on learning events and attract an estimated 40,000 curious families to experience the future of learning. Called Remake Learning Days Across America (RLDAA), this celebration of learning is led by Remake Learning, PBS Kids and Digital Promise.

The internationally recognized network Remake Learning, which ignite engaging and relevant learning practices in support of young people who are navigating rapid social and technological change, launched Remake Learning Days in 2016 to help close a gap with parents who wanted to connect more with their children’s learning and to bring these opportunities to a broader socioeconomic audience. Since launching in Southwestern PA and West Virginia in 2016, more than 53,000 youth, parents and caregivers have participated in 600+ Remake Learning Days events - the majority of events of which were free.

“This growth of Remake Learning Days is in response to other regions hoping to deepen work in parent and family engagement across many institutions, based on a model which began in Pittsburgh,” said Sunanna Chand, Director of Remake Learning. “With so many organizations, parents, and communities participating, we hope to encourage a national conversation around the future of learning and increase the demand for engaging and equitable hands-on experiences across all the spaces kids learn.”

Beginning with eastern Kentucky this April 12, and spreading to 8 other regions through May, families, caregivers and youth will experience new ways of learning. Each regional festival lasts anywhere from a weekend to 11 days. Held in such spaces as parks, libraries, STEM labs, makerspaces, museums, tech companies, centers of faith and even laundromats, these events are designed to help parents
understand how (and why) learning is being remade and how to continue supporting a child who is inspired by, say, coding, tinkering or designing.

“Remake Learning Days Across America has a bold premise: give more students and their families access to engaging, relevant and equitable learning experiences,” said Gregg Behr, executive director of The Grable Foundation, one of the co-chairs of Remake Learning and a funding partner, who noted that caregivers’ understanding of STEAM increased by 11% since 2016, according to attendee surveys. “Make this the norm, not the exception, and create a genuine movement of educators, parents, and students that desire more real-world learning experiences that prepare youth from all backgrounds and all neighborhoods for our rapidly changing world.”

All Remake Learning Days Across America events can be found on the website here. The RLDAA effort is supported nationally by the Carnegie Corporation of New York, The Grable Foundation and Schmidt Futures.

This is a time of remarkable change, from the way our cities work to the way our brains develop, due to the exponential changes in technology. Everything about our world stands to be revised, redefined, and remade. “This is the story of social, economic, and technological change in the 21st century,” notes a report from the KnowledgeWorks Foundation. “We are not following a clear path at a steady clip; we are speeding on an uncertain track at an exponential pace.”

Today’s children will be asked to take jobs that have yet to be imagined, to collaborate and compete with machines, and to navigate dramatic societal shifts. When learning is relevant, it resonates with the learner’s interests, culture, context, community, identity, abilities and experiences. It prepares learners for the future, in which interdisciplinary skills like creativity, problem-solving, critical thinking, and collaboration will be increasingly salient.

“For more than a century, the Carnegie Corporation has worked to strengthen American education, and research shows that family engagement is essential to achieving that mission,” said Ambika Kapur, Program Officer in the Education Program at the Carnegie Corporation of New York. “We are delighted to see our support for Remake Learning Days bringing that commitment vibrantly to life, with students and families having fun and learning together through innovative, hands-on STEAM activities.”

To help with this vision, the Remake Learning network has collaborated with PBS KIDS and Digital Promise, who join this effort as national partners by offering support through their networks to inform parents, educators and communities.

“Efforts to remake learning are happening with great success in many school districts across the nation where educators teach alongside gamers, learning scientists plan summer camps with museum curators, and hip-hop artists host poetry workshops with after-school providers,” said Malliron Hodge, Remake Learning Days Across America Education Fellow with Digital Promise. “And yet, huge gaps persist in the learning outcomes of students based on race, class, and where they live. From literacy in laundromats in Durham, North Carolina, to a digital art mural depicting an anti-hate message at a high-traffic intersection in Chicago, Remake Learning Days gives youths access to learning experiences that help them acquire the confidence they need to thrive in an ever-changing world.”
“We believe that children need support from their entire ecosystem, and that learning, on a fundamental level, must be a community’s endeavor,” said Sara Schapiro, Vice President, Education, PBS. “That’s why we’re thrilled to support this grassroots effort through our regional network partners who are helping to inform families of this incredible child-parent engagement opportunity.”

Remake Learning Days Across America
We are honored to share that Remake Learning Days is taking root across nine regions, each led by a local organization in a leadership role. Many regions have more than 50 registered events. You can find all events here.

- **Eastern Kentucky**, April 12–20 (led by KET Education);
- **Knoxville, Tennessee**, April 15–20 (led by TCAT-Knoxville);
- **Southwestern Pennsylvania**, May 9–19 (led by Remake Learning);
- **West Virginia**, May 9–19 (led by Remake Learning);
- **Chattanooga, Tennessee**, May 11–18 (led by Public Education Foundation);
- **Northeast OH**, May 15-19 (led by NeoStem Ecosystem);
- **Southeastern Pennsylvania**, May 15–24 (led by PA SEED Ecosystem);
- **Chicago, Illinois**, May 16–19 (led by The Chicago Learning Exchange);
- **North Carolina**, May 17–18 (led by Triangle Learning Network); and
- **Pop-Up Events**, through June 30, for any organization who wishes to participate.

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Remake Learning
Remake Learning is a network that ignites engaging, relevant, and equitable learning practices in support of young people navigating rapid social and technological change. Visit remakelearning.org for more information or follow RL on Twitter, Facebook and Instagram. For more information specifically on Remake Learning Days Across America, visit remakelearningdays.org or follow RLD on Twitter, Facebook and Instagram.

PBS KIDS, the number one educational media brand for kids, offers children ages 2-8 the opportunity to explore new ideas and new worlds through television, digital media and community-based programs. PBS KIDS and local stations across the country support the entire ecosystem in which children learn, including their teachers, parents and community. Kidscreen- and Webby Award-winning pbskids.org provides engaging interactive content. PBS KIDS offers mobile apps to help support young children’s learning, including the PBS KIDS Video app. For more information on PBS KIDS content and initiatives supporting school readiness and more, visit pbs.org/pressroom, or follow PBS KIDS on Twitter, Facebook and Instagram.

Digital Promise is a nonprofit organization that builds powerful networks and takes on grand challenges by working at the intersection of researchers, entrepreneurs, and educators. Our vision is that all people, at every stage of their lives, have access to learning experiences that help them acquire the knowledge and skills they need to thrive and continuously learn in an ever-changing world. Visit www.digitalpromise.org for more information or follow us on Twitter.