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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Higher Achievement Expands to Baltimore, MD, Part of Vision to Serve More Middle-School Students

Washington, DC – May 28, 2008: Higher Achievement today announced plans to expand its nationally recognized and award-winning out-of-school time (OST) academic enrichment programs to Baltimore, MD. For 33 years, Higher Achievement has provided year-round educational programs for motivated middle-school students in underserved communities in the Washington, DC, metropolitan area. Higher Achievement currently operates in DC and Alexandria, VA, serving more than 400 students. By the summer of 2009, the organization plans to expand to Baltimore, which will be Higher Achievement's first step outside of metropolitan DC. This expansion is part of Higher Achievement's plan to serve more middle-school students who are talented and motivated but who live in underserved communities. The establishment of a national office in DC and a program in Baltimore is largely made possible by a grant of \$3 million over a three-year period from The Atlantic Philanthropies.

"Out-of-school time programming provides students with the additional support they need to achieve. Higher Achievement has served relatively few students extremely well with a high-quality, comprehensive program and is now in a position to serve many more students with the same quality during those pivotal hours," said Nicole Gallant, Program Executive at The Atlantic Philanthropies. "It's a privilege to support Higher Achievement's excellent work and thoughtful replication strategy."

"Higher Achievement offers motivated students from underserved areas the tools they need to succeed in middle school and gain placement to top high schools. Our track record of helping students improve their grade point averages and standardized test scores demonstrates the program's ability to achieve results," said Richard Anthony Tagle, Higher Achievement's Chief Executive Officer. "There is a critical need for our program in Baltimore, where less than half of middle-school students have access to high-quality summer programs. We are expanding to address this need and because potential partners in Baltimore are prepared to work with Higher Achievement to bring high-quality academic opportunities to the city's underserved middle-school students."

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Baltimore was chosen by Higher Achievement as a replication site because of a number of factors: the community's need and demand for programs like Higher Achievement, support from the public school system, the availability of high school placement spots, the potential for recruiting talented staff and volunteers, and financial support from partners and the public and private philanthropic communities. The program in Baltimore is scheduled to open in June 2009 for 100 students and to operate at scale for 500 students by 2012.

Alongside this expansion, Higher Achievement is conducting a randomized, longitudinal study, funded by The Atlantic Philanthropies and the William T. Grant Foundation and in partnership with Public/Private Ventures, to enumerate the program's effectiveness and to identify practices that can be shared with other organizations. The project will study the potential of high-quality, year-round OST academic enrichment to affect the lives of economically disadvantaged students. The exhaustive study will include surveys, focus groups, site visits, and independent student testing. The study will examine results from 1,000 students in treatment and control groups from May 1, 2006, through May 1, 2011. The results of this randomized evaluation of Higher Achievement will help determine plans for further expansion.

"The study will ask important questions about the effectiveness of the Higher Achievement model," said Lynsey Wood Jeffries, Executive Director of Higher Achievement's DC-Metro affiliate. "Successful study results will enable us to offer the Higher Achievement program to many more middle-school students who are eager for opportunities to learn and excel."

About Higher Achievement

Higher Achievement is a non-profit organization dedicated to developing academic skills, behaviors, and attitudes in academically motivated and underserved middle-school children for the purpose of improving their grades and performance on standardized tests. The program also boosts school attendance and increases educational opportunities by giving participants the tools to enroll and succeed in rigorous high school classes. Founded in 1975, Higher Achievement operates five achievement centers and currently serves more than 400 students in Washington, DC, and Alexandria, VA, each year. The organization has received numerous awards, but the most important measures of success are the results achieved by the Higher Achievement scholars. In 2007, 100% of Higher Achievement scholars attending DC public schools achieved a 20% increase in reading and math on the school district's standardized tests. In addition to enhanced grades, test scores, and attendance, 80 percent of eighth-graders from the DC Higher Achievement program were placed in the area's top high schools during 2003-2005. Higher Achievement is

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a national demonstration model for academic achievement during OST and is committed to making academic excellence a valued goal in underserved communities. For more information, please visit us online at www.higherachievement.org.

Recent Awards include:

- 2006 Johns Hopkins University – Excellence in Summer Learning Award
- 2006 CharityWorks Partner
- 2005 Washington Post Award for Excellence in Nonprofit Management
- 2005 Bank of America Neighborhood Builder Award
- 2005 Excel Leadership Award – Honorable Mention
- 2005 Accenture/ NPower Award for Innovation in Technology

About The Atlantic Philanthropies

The Atlantic Philanthropies are dedicated to bringing about lasting changes in the lives of disadvantaged and vulnerable people. Atlantic focuses on four critical social problems: Aging, Disadvantaged Children & Youth, Population Health, and Reconciliation & Human Rights. Programs funded by Atlantic operate in Australia, Bermuda, Northern Ireland, the Republic of Ireland, South Africa, the United States, and Viet Nam. To learn more, please visit <http://www.atlanticphilanthropies.org>.

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