

Gainesville.
Citizen centered
People empowered

Parks, Recreation and
Cultural Affairs

A CAPRA Accredited Agency

Memo

To: Mayor Lauren Poe and Members of the Gainesville City Commission

Via: Deborah Bowie, City Manager 

Dan Hoffman, Assistant City Manager 

From: William Marcantel, Recreation Manager

Date: 6/6/2019

Re: Porters Community Center Pilot After School Program

This Memo is to notify the City Commission of a potential collaborative pilot program that has been in discussions with Parks, Recreation and Cultural Affairs, Commissioner Simmons, and other potential partners during this fiscal year. The program will supplement educational support in the current Foundations After School program provided by PRCA at the Porters Community Center. The key partners include Alachua County Public School System, Gainesville Regional Utilities, Santa Fe College, and a donor delivering funding that will allow for the purchase of updated computer hardware for use in the program.

The purpose of the collaboration is to reduce the digital divide and improve academic proficiency of participants within the program by enhancing the homework help time portion of the After School program. The Collaboration will incorporate structured use of online software and updated computer systems to achieve this goal. PRCA and key partners will work together and combine resources in an effort to specifically improve academic standings of participants, provide improved homework assistance of participants enrolled in the program, and determine the feasibility and ability to expand the pilot program to other City After School locations. PRCA has already arranged for additional bandwidth for the facility at an additional cost via GRUCom. PRCA is covering that expense with existing budget. PRCA is also using existing Recreation Aides to act as proctors and anticipate no additional PRCA staffing needs at this time. However, there will be an additional charge for IT help desk support as well as a technician via GRU to maintain the donated equipment. There is no budget currently for that aspect of the pilot nor have funds yet been identified.