# Cox Communications Helps Keep Kids Engaged in Academics this Summer with New Virtual Programming from Boys & Girls Clubs of America

## The James M. Cox Foundation provides grant to Boys & Girls Clubs of America to expand & enhance digital learning platform; Cox extends access to low-income families in Connect2Compete program

ATLANTA, June 29, 2020 /<u>PRNewswire</u>/ -- Cox Communications today announced a \$100,000 grant from the James M. Cox Foundation to the Boys & Girls Club of America (BGCA). The funds will help support development of new digital programming and enhance functionality of Boys & Girls Clubs of America's MyFuture virtual learning platform for not only Club kids, but also for Cox's Connect2Compete families.

<u>MyFuture</u> is BGCA's digital platform that empowers children and teens to learn new skills, share accomplishments and earn recognition and rewards via gamification in a safe and fun online environment. MyFuture has engaged more than 60,000 youth, with demand growing exponentially since the start of the COVID-19 pandemic. Now, MyFuture will also be available to students participating in the <u>Cox</u> <u>Connect2Compete program</u> as part of the company's <u>Digital Academy</u>.

Connect2Compete provides qualifying households with low-cost, home internet service and access to the <u>Cox</u> <u>Digital Academy</u>. The Academy is an online learning platform that contains an expanding library of computer literacy tips, educational videos, tutorials and interactive games. With the enhancement of the MyFuture platform, more kids will have access to tools for summer learning.

"Cox is committed to ensuring K-12 students have the access and skillsets needed to succeed in an increasingly digital-first world. This is especially important amid the Coronavirus pandemic, where learning has transitioned online," said Pat Esser, president and CEO of Cox Communications. "Joining forces with the Boys & Girls Club and integrating our digital learning tools opens the door for more kids that need digital learning this summer."

Cox has worked with BGCA for several years, opening technology centers and offering resources to narrow the digital divide for children across the country.

"The grant from the James M. Cox Foundation could not have come at a better time," said Jim Clark, president and CEO, Boys & Girls Clubs of America. "With so many families staying home this summer to stop the spread of COVID-19, kids need fun and educational programs to keep them active and engaged in learning. Our virtual learning tools, paired with the Cox Digital Academy, will serve as a field trip for the mind."

During the height of the COVID-19 pandemic, Cox implemented several programs and services to help Connect2Compete program participants. Support included free service through July 15 for those who signed up between March 16 and May 15, and Cox doubled download speeds during the same period. Offering digital learning resources through its Digital Academy and the MyFuture platform is the next step.

For more information on Cox Connect2Compete and the MyFuture platform, visit <u>cox.com/digitalacademy</u>.

#### **About Cox Communications**

Cox Communications is committed to creating meaningful moments of human connection through broadband applications and services. The largest private telecom company in America, we proudly serve six million homes and businesses across 18 states. We're dedicated to empowering others to build a better future and celebrate diverse products, people, suppliers, communities and the characteristics that makes each one unique. Cox Communications is the largest division of Cox Enterprises, a family-owned business founded in1898 by Governor James M. Cox.

#### About The James M. Cox Foundation

The James M. Cox Foundation is named in honor of Cox Enterprises' founder and provides funding for capital campaigns and special projects in communities where the company operates. James M. Cox was Ohio's first three-term governor and the 1920 Democratic nominee for president of the United States. The Foundation concentrates its community support in several areas, including: conservation and environment; early childhood education; empowering families and individuals for success; and health.

### About Boys & Girls Clubs of America

For more than 150 years, Boys & Girls Clubs of America (BGCA.org) has enabled young people most in need to achieve great futures as productive, caring, responsible citizens. Today, more than 4,700 Clubs serve over 4.7 million young people through Club membership and community outreach. Clubs are located in cities, towns, public housing and on Native lands throughout the country, and serve military families in BGCA-affiliated Youth Centers on U.S. military installations worldwide. They provide a safe place, caring adult mentors, fun and friendship, and high-impact youth development programs on a daily basis during critical non-school hours. Club programs promote academic success, good character and citizenship, and healthy lifestyles. In a Harris Survey of alumni, 54 percent said the Club saved their lives. National headquarters are located in Atlanta. Learn more about Boys & Girls Clubs of America on Facebook and Twitter.

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