Official Kickoff of the 2021 Alabama Summer Learning Challenge

Welcome and Introduction of Speakers:
- ALSDE Communication Director, Dr. Michael Sibley will provide a brief introduction of speakers. Dr. Sibley will also discuss the news conference run-of-show and provide information to Media Members on today’s official Q&A session.

- **Brief Background – History of Alabama Summer Learning Challenge:**
  - Dr. Tracye Strichik, ALSDE Reading Initiative Coordinator will discuss background and history of the Summer Learning Challenge in Alabama.

- **Alabama Assistant State Superintendent Terry Roller:**
  - Assistant State Superintendent Terry Roller will discuss exactly why Alabama’s Summer Learning initiative is vital for all K-12 students statewide. Assistant State Superintendent Terry Roller will also discuss why Summer Learning will be key to our state’s COVID-19 transition efforts back to full in-classroom learning this upcoming school year.

- **USA National Miss Alabama Christine Thompson:**
  - Dynamic presenter and 2021 Miss Alabama Christine Thompson will discuss how literacy and a commitment to learning have positively impacted her family. Miss Alabama Christine Thompson (@unmAlabamaMiss) will also briefly discuss some of her favorite summertime books for K-12 students, and the importance of initiatives like the Summer Learning Challenge.

- **MetaMetrics President, CEO and Co-Founder, Dr. Malbert Smith:**
  - Highly respected national educator, Dr. Malbert Smith will discuss what national statistics and learning trends show. Dr. Smith will examine why partnerships like Alabama’s Summer Learning Challenge are key in reducing summer learning slide and reestablishing K-12 classroom learning after COVID-19.

- **Stride Inc, President of Career Learning Solutions, Dr. Shaun McAlmont:**
  - Highly respected national educator, Dr. Shaun McAlmont will discuss trends in K-12 reading. Dr. McAlmont will also detail key learning resources and best practice tips that parents can utilize to further their children’s learning experience this summer, including the Big Universe platform.

- **Questions and Answers – How to Access 2021 Summer Learning Resources:**
  - During this period, Media Members will have an opportunity to ask questions and receive answers from today’s expert panel of Keynote Speakers (more info below)

*Additional Media Questions after today’s news event can be sent to ALSDE Communication at www.comm@alsde.edu*
- **ALSDE Alabama Reading Initiative** (ARI) representative, Mrs. Karen Rutledge-Bell will share information on how parents & students can find the 2021 Summer Learning Challenge Webpage – excitement is building statewide for this year’s FREE reading, math, and science learning resources!

- **MetaMetrics Senior Executives Luci Willits and Matt Copeland** will briefly discuss the math, science, and FREE Lexile reading items available to Alabama students – they will also provide information on the sign-up period for the 2021 Math Learning Challenge.

- **Stride Inc, President of Career Learning Solutions, Dr. Shaun McAlmont** will briefly discuss and answer questions about the Big Universe platform and other wonderful resources available to Alabama students and parents this summer.

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