****

June 2018

Dear Parents:

We are pleased to invite you to an **Information Session** regarding the 2018 STARTALK Hindi and Urdu Student Program to be held at the **Kean University Union Campus** in **Hutchinson Hall 305 J** on **Thursday, June 28, 2018** from **6:00- 7:00 PM.**  Directions to Kean may be accessed through MapQuest and a Campus Map is available at <http://www.kean.edu/campusmap/>. Refreshments will be provided.

As you are aware, **June 28 is also the date for** **Student Orientation**, held from **4:00- 6:00 PM**, during which time students will participate in pre-program placement testing and be informed about program expectations. Hence we have scheduled the parent information session immediately following on the same day for your convenience, so that both parents and students may meet with STARTALK faculty and be provided with important information about the program.

As indicated on the Program Flyer, this Summer Program is offered at no-cost to students. The program is sponsored by STARTALK, a federally funded initiative, which supports the study of critical need languages designated by the U. S. government. The program will enroll 20-25 Hindi and 15-20 Urdu high school/early college heritage language learners in a three-week blended learning experience totaling 100-instructional hours. A variety of technology tools will be used to support language learning experiences throughout the program. The onsite program will take place at the Kean University Union Campus from **8:45- 3:45 July 30-August 10.** An **online program** immediately follows the onsite program **August 13-16.** Post program testing and **Graduation** will take place at Kean on **August 17, 2018**. Please save the date on your calendar!

During the June 28 information session parents and students will:

* Receive an overview of the project that includes specific program goals, objectives and methodologies;
* Be apprised of anticipated student outcomes and the process for awarding high school and college credits upon successful completion of the program; and
* Have the opportunity to ask questions of the project faculty.

Given the benefits of this program for your son or daughter, we are hoping you will take some time to come to the Information Session on **Thursday, June 28.** Please RSVP if you are planning to attend by emailing Hindi Program Coordinator, Nita Yajnik, at nita.yajnik@gmail.com or Urdu Program Coordinator, Romeena@hotmail.com by June25. In the meantime, should you have any questions, feel free to contact me at 908-892-4712.

Finally, please note that during the onsite Student Program, breakfast and lunch will be provided by Kean, and at times by other food services. Please advise the Hindi or Urdu Program Coordinator, if your child has a food allergy. In such cases, we request you send a brown bag lunch.

 Sincerely,

 **Janis Jensen**

 Janis Jensen, Project Director