

## News from the National League of Cities

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### For Immediate Release

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### New York Selected to Host 2014 Statewide Mayoral Summit on Afterschool

Washington, DC – The New York State Afterschool Network (NYSAN) has been selected by the National League of Cities (NLC) as one of five networks nationwide to host a statewide Mayoral Summit on Afterschool and Expanded Learning in 2014. Buffalo Mayor Byron Brown will host the summit that aims to bring together city leaders, state agency officials, and school and community partners to focus on expanding afterschool opportunities for children and youth in the state.

“I commend the New York State Afterschool Network for choosing Buffalo to host a Statewide Mayoral Summit to discuss the continued need for before and after school programs, summer activities and other out-of-school-time learning opportunities for youth,” said Mayor Brown. “This is an exciting time in Buffalo and we have a number of valuable programs underway that are an important part of our city’s educational system, providing academic assistance and enrichment opportunities to youth and families in need. Bringing together key officials from across the state to discuss the value of quality after school programs will improve policy development and partnerships at the state and city level to deliver better afterschool programs to our youth.”

The 2014 summit will represent the first statewide convening of local elected officials that is focused specifically on the issue of afterschool. New York was chosen based on demonstrated need and interest from NYSAN and other education stakeholders and civic leaders. The network will receive grant funding and strategic planning assistance from NLC. Additionally, networks will partner with state municipal leagues and mayoral champions to host the summits with support from the Charles Stewart Mott Foundation and The Wallace Foundation.

“The New York State Afterschool Network is honored to have been chosen by the National League of Cities to host a statewide summit for mayors and other elected leaders to discuss the importance of afterschool and summer programs for their communities,” said NYSAN Executive Director Nora Niedzielski-Eichner. “New York community-based organizations, local governments, and public-private partnerships have been leaders in developing innovative, high-quality programming that meets the needs of their youth and families. We are tremendously excited about the opportunity to showcase the great work that goes on every day across our state and to challenge ourselves to create more opportunities for our children.”

Summit objectives will include raising awareness of the critical roles mayors can play to support afterschool; connecting mayors with peers from across their states; highlighting successful approaches to building citywide systems of afterschool programming; engaging mayors in shaping state afterschool policies; and developing strategic partnerships among city leaders, statewide afterschool networks, and state agencies to advance local afterschool initiatives.

Other state networks selected for the 2014 summit include: New Hampshire Afterschool Network, New Jersey School-Age Care Coalition, Utah Afterschool Network, and the South Dakota Afterschool Partnership.

“The newly announced afterschool summits will provide a unique opportunity for stakeholders across these five states to engage in a critical dialogue on out-of-school time programming. Millions of children in this country are unsupervised during the afterschool hours. We know that effective afterschool programs improve education, safety, and health outcomes, equip youth with skills for a successful future, and help us build stronger, healthier communities,” said NLC President Marie Lopez Rogers, mayor, Avondale, AZ. “These summits will help city and state leaders work together more effectively to ensure that all children have access to high-quality afterschool opportunities. The adage ‘it takes a village’ means all of the village must engage.”

The initiative builds on two previous rounds of mayoral summits sponsored by statewide afterschool networks and supported by NLC and its foundation partners. The first round of summits took place in Arizona, Georgia, Iowa, Michigan and South Carolina in 2009 and 2010. The second round took place in Louisiana, Maryland, Minnesota, Nebraska, North Carolina, Oregon, Pennsylvania, Virginia, and Washington in 2012.

To learn more about the statewide afterschool networks, visit <http://www.statewideafterschoolnetworks.net/>.

The National League of Cities is dedicated to helping city leaders build better communities. NLC is a resource and advocate for 19,000 cities, towns and villages, representing more than 218 million Americans.

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