

MEDIA ALERT

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National Summer Learning Day to Attract Thousands to Canalside on July 12

Annual event to increase awareness about summer program to reduce “Summer Learning Loss”

Buffalo – The **Afterschool Network of Western New York (ASN WNY)** will sponsor *National Summer Learning Day* on **Wednesday, July 12 from 8:45 a.m. to 11:45 a.m.** at **Canalside Buffalo** location 44 Prime Street, Buffalo.

This 2nd annual event brings awareness to the importance of children engaging in summer programs and camps for brain stimulation when school is not in session. Additionally, funding is necessary to support and expand summer camp opportunities to cater to each student’s interests.

Over 2,000 students and staff from various summer camps throughout WNY understand the significance of this message and will be in attendance. The event places an emphasis on arts, literacy, sports/health, STEM, and the need for summer meals. The event will be attended by students in the Say Yes to Education Buffalo camps and other programs throughout WNY.

Kelly Sturgis, Executive Director for the New York State Network for Youth Success, articulates the importance of these summer programs: “On average, taxpayers invest \$10-12,000 per child during the school year; then we walk away for two to three months of the summer. We essentially let 20 percent of students’ academic growth be lost over the summer and fall short in supporting the 13 million children in food insecure homes.”

“Events like this help to highlight the good work being done, but also reiterate the need to expand these programs so every child can have access to the benefits of a stimulating summer program to prepare them for their long-term future,” said JoAnna Johnson, Co-Chair of Advocacy Committee at ASN WNY. “Engaging students in a fun, yet effective, way through these programs will allow their brains to be in consistent use, influencing the way they interact both socially and professionally.”

What: ASN WNY’s **National Summer Learning Day, 2017**

When: Wednesday, July 12 from 8:45 a.m. – 11:45 a.m.

Where: Canalside Buffalo location 44 Prime Street, Buffalo

Who: Parents, students, and staff from summer camps throughout WNY

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About The New York State Network for Youth Success

The New York State Network for Youth Success is dedicated to building a youth-serving system that increases the quality and availability of afterschool and expanded learning programs.

The Network for Youth Success supports all programs that promote young people's intellectual, social, emotional, and physical development outside the traditional school day. These programs include those that serve youth in kindergarten through 12th grade, take place in schools and/or in community-based settings, and occur before and after school, during weekends, holidays, and summer breaks, or during the school day through partnerships with community organizations.

The Network for Youth Success convenes partners and coordinates them around a common agenda focused on partnership development, policy development, and capacity building. The network connects practice with policy across a broad range of state, regional, and local partners that represent the afterschool, expanded learning, community schools, and youth development fields broadly.

About ASNWNY

Hosted by the United Way of Buffalo and Erie County, the After-School Network of Western New York serves as an intersection point for after-school and out-of-school time stakeholders in Erie County. The network engages in systems-level work around policy, partnerships, and quality assurance to create conditions for programs to operate effectively and meet the diverse needs of young people in the region in out-of-school time settings. ASNWNY brings together program staff and community leaders to advance a vision of quality out-of-school programming for all students in the region. ASNWNY meets quarterly and operates several standing committees: (1). Steering, (2). Advocacy, (3). Systems Building, and (4). Professional Development. All out-of-school time stakeholders are welcome to join the network and affiliated subcommittees.