

## **Outstanding Afterschool and Extended Learning Programs and Advocates to Receive Awards at NYS Network for Youth Success's Annual Conference May 11**

Albany, NY – The NYS Network for Youth Success will recognize outstanding afterschool and extended learning programs and advocates for their exemplary work at their Annual Conference May 11 in Saratoga Springs.

For the first time ever, the Network will present awards in four categories. The awardees in each of those categories are as follows:

The **QUALITY LEADERSHIP AWARD** recognizes outstanding program administration that effectively prioritizes the critical value of quality afterschool, summer, or expanded learning programs on developmental needs.

**Robert Monahan**, The Greater Ridgewood Youth Council, New York City

**Kim Haynes**, New York Edge, New York City

The **EXEMPLARY AWARD OF PROFESSIONALISM** recognizes an inclusive understanding of developmental needs and commitment to professional growth.

**Dr. Anna Morgan-Mullane**, Children of Promise, New York City

**Chelsea Martin**, Native American Community Services, Buffalo

The **PROGRAM AWARD OF EXCELLENCE AND INNOVATION** recognizes the highest quality programming with enriching activities and collective strategies.

**Children of Promise**, New York City

**New York Edge (MS 51)**, New York City

The **CHAMPION AWARD** recognizes advocacy, collaboration and critical support for high-quality afterschool, summer, or expanded learning programs and development opportunities that promote youth success in school, college, work, and life.

**Assemblymember Victor Pichardo**, Bronx

**Assemblymember Crystal Peoples-Stokes**, Buffalo

“We are pleased to recognize the commitment of those who work so hard to ensure that New York’s students have access to high quality afterschool and summer learning programs,” said Kelly Sturgis, Executive Director of the NYS Network for Youth Success. “These awardees are making a difference in the lives of our children, the success of our families, and the future of our state.”

The NYS Network for Youth Success supports afterschool and expanded learning opportunities that help students develop skills needed for long-term success. Effective afterschool and summer programs have

been shown to help close the achievement gap and reduce summer brain drain, and keep students safe in the hours when school is out but many parents are still working.

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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.

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