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# **New Coalition Commits to Greater Opportunities for Youth**

Urges recognition of the importance of after-school and summer learning

BOSTON – Today a coalition of 59 leaders from Boston's nonprofit, cultural, higher education, business and philanthropic sectors unveiled <u>Boston Learns Together</u> committing their organizations to ensuring that Boston's young people have greater access to enriching opportunities beyond school.

The coalition's unusually broad array of institutions reflects growing evidence that enriching experiences, in addition to quality schools, are crucial to children's success. "School alone is not a strong enough intervention to close the achievement gap," said Paul Reville, professor of practice at Harvard Graduate School of Education and former Massachusetts secretary of education. "We need a 21<sup>st</sup> Century education and child development system that treats people differently based on what they need, integrating enrichment, health, and wellness supports."

This announcement comes as the city anticipates a new mayor and superintendent of schools. Boston has made substantial progress in creating such opportunities for young people, yet national statistics suggest that there remains a significant "opportunity gap" between low-income students and their higher income peers. Data show that high-income families spend nearly seven times more than low-income families on enriching activities for their children, exposure to novel environments, and other activities beyond school.

To address this disparity, each organization that has signed *Boston Learns Together* has committed to:

- Apply resources to close opportunity gaps,
- Share accountability with schools for results, and
- Collaborate with the next mayor and superintendent on implementation.

Coalition members note that a citywide learning system that incorporates partnerships and time after school and during the summer should enhance cognitive, social and emotional skills such as problem solving, teamwork, and persistence. "Students must be able to demonstrate their mastery of higher order skills, not merely academic content," said Nicholas Donohue, president and CEO of the Nellie Mae Education Foundation, New England's largest foundation focused solely on education. "We have a number of strong models for helping young people develop these skills."

Meeting these objectives requires engagement of a broad array of partners. As an example, Brigham and Women's Hospital provides 80 internships in the medical, health and science professions. "High school students need experiences in actual workplaces with real responsibilities in order to develop the skills that will enable them to succeed," said Wanda McClain, vice president of community health at the hospital and board chair for Boston After School & Beyond. Partners HealthCare and its founding hospitals Brigham and Women's and Massachusetts General have committed \$10 million in college scholarships and support for graduates of their high school programs. "To ensure their success we provide academic support and practical assistance from high school all the way through college graduation," said McClain.

Boston After School & Beyond convenes the coalition through a partnership council focused on six areas of work, including summer learning, school-community partnerships, working with teens, STEM, quality measurement, and skills.

To learn more about Boston Learns Together, please visit www.bostonlearnstogether.org.

# **SIGNATORIES**

#### **Eric Arnold**

Executive Director, Hale Reservation

# Joan Becker

Vice Provost, University of Massachusetts Boston

### **Sue Bonaiuto**

Executive Director for MA, BELL

# Julie Brandlen

Director, Mass Audubon's Boston Nature Center

# **Roger Brown**

President, Berklee College of Music

# Sandra Lopez Burke

Executive Director, City Year Boston

# Vanessa Calderón-Rosado

Executive Director, Inquilinos Boricuas en Acción (IBA)

# **Carole Charnow**

President & CEO, Boston Children's Museum

## **Hardin Coleman**

Dean, Boston University School of Education

#### **Gene Corbin**

Assistant Dean, Harvard College for Public Service

#### **Mark Culliton**

Chief Executive Officer, College Bound Dorchester

#### **Dave DiLorenzo**

Executive Director, Courageous Sailing Center

### **Maria Dominguez Gray**

Executive Director, Phillips Brooks House Association

# Nick Donohue

President, Nellie Mae Education Foundation

# **Rahn Dorsey**

Evaluation Director, Barr Foundation

# **Ned Eames**

President and Founder, Tenacity

#### Max Fripp

Massachusetts Executive Director, Playworks

# Gary L. Gottlieb, M.D., M.B.A.

President and Chief Executive Officer, Partners HealthCare System, Inc.

# **Daphne Griffin**

Executive Director, Boston Centers for Youth and Families\*

### **Mossik Hacobian**

Executive Director, Boston's Higher Ground

### **Daniel Johnson**

Executive Director, 826 Boston

#### **Chris Jones**

Executive Director, Dudley Street Neighborhood Initiative (DSNI)

#### **Amy Kingman**

Boston Executive Director, Strong Women, Strong Girls

### Pat Kirby

Chief Operating Officer, Citizen Schools

### Josh Kraft

Nicolas President & CEO, Boys & Girls Clubs of Boston

### **Judith Kurland**

Executive Director, Center for Community Democracy and Democratic Literacy

McCormack Graduate School of Policy and Global Studies, University of Massachusetts Boston\*

# **David Lapin**

Executive Director, Community Music Center of Boston

# **Cathy Livingston**

Executive Director, MathPOWER

#### **Claudio Martinez**

Executive Director, Hyde Square Task Force

#### Wanda McClain

Vice President, Community Health & Health Equity Brigham & Women's Hospital

### Joseph McGrail

Chief Operating Officer, State Street Foundation

Jill Medvedow, Ellen Matilda Poss Director Monica Garza, Education Director

The Institute for Contemporary Art/Boston

# **Gabrielle King Morse**

Massachusetts Executive Director, uAspire (formerly ACCESS)

### J. Keith Motley

Chancellor, University of Massachusetts Boston

#### Gil Noam

Executive Director, Program in Education, Afterschool & Resilience (PEAR)

### Arthur N. Pearson

President and Chief Executive Officer, Thompson Island Outward Bound Education Center

#### Laura Perille

President & CEO, EdVestors

#### **Kathy Plazak**

President, Plazak & Associates

### Joan Quinlan

Executive Director, MGH Center for Community Health Improvement Massachusetts General Hospital

**Emily Raine**. Director, Massachusetts Expanded Learning Time Initiatives

**Colleen Beaudoin**, Managing Director of District and School Support Massachusetts 2020/The National Center on Time & Learning

# Paul Reville

Professor of Practice, Harvard Graduate School of Education\*

# Susan Rodgerson

Executive/Artistic Director, Artists for Humanity

# **Amy Ryan**

President, Boston Public Library

#### **Katrina Shaw**

CEO, Freedom House

### **Chris Smith**

Executive Director, Boston After School & Beyond

# **Jesse Solomon**

Executive Director, BPE

# **Peg Sprague**

Senior Vice President, United Way of Mass Bay and Merrimack Valley

# Steve Stein

Executive Director, Boston Debate League

### **Neil Sullivan**

Executive Director, Boston Private Industry Council

# Jane Tewksbury

Executive Director, Thrive in 5

# Michael K. Tooke

Member of the Steering Committee, Boston Leaders for Education

# **Bob Van Meter**

Executive Director, Local Initiatives Support Corporation (LISC) Greater Boston

# **Mary Walsh**

**Executive Director, City Connects** 

# **Kevin Washington**

President and CEO, YMCA of Greater Boston

#### Toni Wiley

Executive Director, Sportsmen's Tennis & Enrichment Center

# **David Wright**

Executive Director, Black Ministerial Alliance of Greater Boston

# **Wayne Ysaguirre**

President and CEO, Associated Early Care and Education

\* Organization listed for purposes of identification only.