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Every Hour Counts Launches National Learning Community

The Every Hour Counts National Learning Community will bring together leaders from 13 communities to strengthen the expanded-learning field and to influence federal policy.

Every Hour Counts, a coalition of 10 citywide organizations that increase access to quality learning opportunities, has launched a new National Learning Community comprised of expanded-learning system-builders from 13 additional cities and regions from around the country. The Every Hour Counts National Learning Community will offer organizations the opportunity to share their own approaches with peers in other cities, improve their practices, receive coaching from field experts and experienced system-builders, and design solutions to shared challenges facing the field.

Every Hour Counts is a leading voice in promoting the work of building expanded-learning systems, which replace a patchwork of fragmented service providers in a city or county with a cohesive team that engages students in high-quality learning and enrichment through after-school and summer programs, and other initiatives.

"We're delighted to welcome 13 new cities and counties into our learning community," said Jessica Donner, the executive director of Every Hour Counts. "For the past 10 years, Every Hour Counts has cross-fertilized innovations in cities around the country and informed federal policy by learning from on-the-ground practitioners. This expansion will expand our circle of cities around the country from 10 to 23 who are learning from each other, advancing the field, and informing the design of new expanded-learning systems around the country."

Every Hour Counts selected the communities to serve as founding members of the National Learning Community based on local accomplishments to improve the quality of expanded-learning opportunities, geographic diversity, and a variety of governance structures.

The members of the Every Hour Counts National Learning Community include:

- Allegheny County, PA – Allegheny Partners for Out-of-School Time
- Dallas, TX – Dallas Afterschool
- Denver, CO – Denver Afterschool Alliance

- Detroit, MI – The Skillman Foundation
- Fresno, CA – California Teaching Fellows Foundation
- Greenville, SC – BOOST Greenville
- Harris County, TX – The Center for Afterschool, Summer and Expanded Learning for Kids, Harris County Department of Education
- King County, WA – Youth Development Executives of King County
- Newark, NJ – Newark Thrives!
- Richmond, VA – NextUp RVA
- Rochester, NY – Greater Rochester After-School Alliance
- San Francisco, CA – San Francisco Expanded Learning Collaborative, San Francisco Department of Children, Youth, & Their Families
- Saint Paul, MN – Sprockets

With the addition of the new National Learning Community members, Every Hour Counts doubles its reach, which includes cities, schools and students. Every Hour Counts communities now collectively support partnerships with more than 3,500 schools, districts, and community-based organizations that provide quality expanded-learning programming and initiatives that reach more than 500,000 students.

Every Hour Counts is grateful to the generous support of The Wallace Foundation for its investment to help create this National Learning Community.

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STATEMENTS OF SUPPORT FROM THE EVERY HOUR COUNTS PARTNER ORGANIZATIONS

“Having an intentional table and the space and time set aside to talk to one another about our systems issues, as well as how we grow and sustain our work, is so important. That’s one of the things I have so deeply appreciated about Every Hour Counts over the years we have been involved – the ability to have facilitated opportunities to talk to one another as a field.” – Jennifer Peck, Executive Director, Partnership for Children and Youth, Bay Area, California

“The connections and leaders in this network are really valuable to us at Boston After School & Beyond as an organization. One of the things we’re looking forward to working with the National Learning Community on is a big issue on the horizon – how we go to sustainable, scalable systems. We think we need to fill two gaps to do that. One is an imagination gap, thinking about what the system will look like beyond schools, and one is an expectation gap. Making that case together will help each of us locally as we try to do this and certainly it will help us nationally as a collective.” – Chris Smith, Executive Director, Boston Afterschool & Beyond

“Every Hour Counts has helped intermediaries – which can play key roles in coordinating and supporting high-quality afterschool and summer learning efforts in communities – learn from each other and be more effective. We’re pleased to see the organization take this step to extend its reach. The number of cities with afterschool systems is an indication of the field’s maturation.” -- Nancy Devine, Director of Learning and Enrichment, The Wallace Foundation

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ABOUT EVERY HOUR COUNTS

Every Hour Counts is a national coalition of citywide organizations that increase access to quality learning opportunities, particularly for underserved students. Our approach – called an *expanded-learning system* – coordinates the work of service providers, public agencies, funders, and schools, so dollars stretch farther and more young people are served. The result: students with better attendance, grades, and test scores; stronger work habits; and more positive social behaviors. www.afterschoolsystems.org

The 10 Every Hour Counts partner organizations include:

After School Matters, Chicago
Boston After School & Beyond
Collective for Youth, Omaha
ExpandED Schools, New York City
Family League of Baltimore
Nashville After Zone Alliance
Partnership for Children and Youth, Bay Area, CA
Prime Time Palm Beach County, Inc.
Providence After School Alliance
Youthprise, Twin Cities, MN.