



NEWS RELEASE
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PASE and MetLife Foundation Partner to Promote Summer Learning

Summer months are critical time to support the academic development of low-income youth

NEW YORK CITY – June 1, 2009 – Discussions about an achievement gap between low-income students and their peers are focused almost exclusively on public schools, but in fact, research has demonstrated that the summer months are the time when this gap is formed. Through the 2009 Summer Learning Initiative, the Partnership for After School Education (PASE) and MetLife Foundation are making the summer the time when the gap is closed.

A groundbreaking Johns Hopkins University study of low-income students entitled “Summer Slide” found that while low-income children were learning at the same rate as other students during the school year, they fell further behind during the summer when more affluent students participated in reading, science, arts, travel, and other enriching activities. Lower income students seldom had such experiences. These losses add up, and by the end of 5th grade, the gap in verbal achievement between these groups is more than two years; in math, it is a year and a half.

The summer months hold great potential for providing low-income youth with educational support through structured, engaging, and enriching activities. While many non-profit organizations already provide excellent programming for these youth, many more require assistance in strengthening their academic and literacy-building components and incorporating these into their more traditional summer plans so that young people return to school ready and eager to learn. Since 2001, PASE has provided organizations with this support through the Summer Learning Initiative (SLI).

With the support of MetLife Foundation, this year’s SLI will focus on middle-school age youth and will increase the capacity of 21 programs to provide young people with activities that support them academically, promote literacy, and teach essential skills such as critical thinking, communication, teamwork, creativity, and interest in learning. The 2009 SLI will prevent summer learning loss by providing enriching activities that support school year learning to over 1,000 young people and share information and resources from the initiative with a large audience of youth providers in New York and beyond.

Organizations participating in the 2009 SLI are 82nd Street Academics, Adolescent & Family Comprehensive Services, Arab-American Family Support Center, Century Dance Complex, Children's Aid Society - East Harlem Center, Chinese-American Planning Council, Claremont Neighborhood Centers, Cross Island YMCA Beacon Center, Harlem RBI, Henry Street Settlement, Hudson Guild, Liberty Partnerships Program, Police Athletic League, Rockaway Artists Alliance, Salvation Army Tarrytown Summer Camp, Stanley M. Isaacs Neighborhood Center, the POINT Community Development Corp., and Vacamas Programs for Youth.

PASE is also pleased to welcome the 2009 Summer Learning Tutors:

- Eugene DiBenedetto – Santa Clara University
- Leni Kirschenbaum – Cornell University
- Timothy Fitzmaurice – Boston College
- Alexander Petrossian – Boston College
- Jillian Roche – New York University

MetLife Foundation was established by MetLife in 1976 to carry on its longstanding tradition of contributions and community involvement. In youth development, the Foundation funds initiatives that promote mentoring and increase constructive activities and safe places for young people, particularly during out-of-school time. For more information, visit www.metlife.org.

The Partnership for After School Education (PASE) is a child-focused organization that promotes and supports quality afterschool programs, particularly those serving young people from underserved communities. For information about PASE or the SLI, please visit www.pasesetter.org or contact Kevin Roe above.

school + afterschool = education