Welcome!

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Welcome!

Leslie Gabay-Swanston
Director of Program and Systems Quality,
National Summer Learning Association
Webinar Overview

• About NSLA
• Jose Oromí, Executive Vice President, Horizons National
• Questions
• Annoucements
Welcome!
NSLA is a national, non-profit organization focused on the powerful impact of one achievable goal: investing in summer learning to help close the achievement gap. NSLA uses the power of research, advocacy, training, and policy to transform America’s neighborhoods and communities, one child at a time.

Our work is based on the simple idea that summer—a time that is easily overlooked yet critical to educational development—is bursting with possibility, and instrumental in closing the achievement gap between privileged children and our most vulnerable children.
Summer is the time of greatest inequity for young people. When schools are closed, many low income young people lack access to meals, books and other learning resources, and physical activity.
The Horizons Network and Expansion Strategies

www.horizonsnational.org
Jose Oromi
Executive Vice-President

Kate Hurlock
Senior Director of Expansion

www.horizonsnational.org
Established over 50 years ago, Horizons programs work with students through their school years to address the achievement gap, graduate, and pursue higher learning.

The sustainability model for Horizons program is based on high quality results, long-term connections with stakeholders, and strong partnerships with investors and host institutions.
Horizons Attendance and Retention

Attendance and Retention Rates – 2018

- Attendance Rate:
  - 2016: 94%
  - 2017: 93%
  - 2018: 95%

- Retention Rate:
  - 2016: 87%
  - 2017: 85%
  - 2018: 87%
Affiliate Support Systems
2020 – 2022 Proposed Priorities

The **Four Priorities** to help us achieve these goals:

1. **Scale** Horizons’ proven program to serve more children, families and communities. Goal: 12,000 students
2. Ensure **Impact** on student success through effective quality assurance systems.
3. Ensure **Sustainability** of a larger network by accessing a broad range of resources.
4. Elevate our **Brand** locally and nationally.
Regional Growth Strategy

The regional strategy continues to produce excellent results

Since 2018...

- $3+ million raised or pledged for regional growth
- 40% of current affiliates are exploring regional growth
- Regional strategy: public funds and district cooperation in Atlanta, Boston, Bridgeport, Rochester and Savannah
“ALONE WE CAN DO SO LITTLE; TOGETHER WE CAN DO SO MUCH.”

- Helen Keller
Exploring Growth

• Why Grow or Expand?

• Understanding the environment
  - Market Analysis (space, funding, politics, culture, history, etc.)
  - Conversations with existing stakeholders (board, investors, partners, allies, etc.)

• Clarifying the intended goal
  • Relevance to the greater community
  • Value Proposition

• Risks / Benefits
The Exploratory Committee

Who: The Exploratory Committee (EC) is comprised of select members of your organization and other key stakeholders in the community. It is a small group of 6-10 individuals willing to provide their expertise and leadership to help explore the possibility of growth or expansion of your organization.

Commitment: The EC member’s term is throughout the exploratory period, which can extend from a few months to a year. The EC will hold 4-6 meetings in the first 6 months, to identify and refine the proposed growth strategy, including impact goals, timeline and budget.

There is no financial commitment.

This is the planning phase.
Testing the Proposition

- Using focus groups
- Partnerships with volunteer organizations or funders
- Build relationships across sectors
- Be willing to listen and apply feedback, but don’t sacrifice your goals.
- Stick to your timeline
When everything seems to be going against you, remember that the airplane takes off against the wind, not with it.

HENRY FORD
Questions
National Summer Learning Day is a national advocacy day aimed at elevating the importance of keeping kids learning, safe and healthy every summer – all so students return to school ready to soar!

https://www.summerlearning.org/summer-learning-day/
Annual National Conference

www.summerlearning.org/national-conference
Find NSLA on social media to keep updated on
#summerlearning

@SummerLearning @SmarterSummers
@SmarterSummers @SummerLearning
Thank you!

www.summerlearning.org

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