NATIONAL SUMMER LEARNING ASSOCIATION’S
CELEBRATION DINNER
30 YEARS OF IMPACT

TUESDAY, OCTOBER 10TH, 2023
6:30 – 10:30 PM
SMITHSONIAN NATIONAL MUSEUM
OF AFRICAN AMERICAN HISTORY & CULTURE

Honoring

MALBERT SMITH, II
CEO, Metametrics

THE NEW YORK LIFE FOUNDATION

DARRYL MCDANIELS & SHEILA JAFFE
Founders, The Felix Organization
The Board of Directors of the National Summer Learning Association Cordially Invites you to our 30th Anniversary Celebration Dinner

**When**: TUESDAY, OCTOBER 10TH, 2023

**Where**: SMITHSONIAN NATIONAL MUSEUM OF AFRICAN AMERICAN HISTORY & CULTURE
1400 Constitution Ave NW, Washington, DC 20560

- **6:30 PM** Cocktail Reception
- **7:30 PM** Dinner & Awards
- **8:30-10:30 PM** Dessert Receptions and Private Tours of the Museum

Cocktail Attire, Student Performances by New York Life Foundation Excellence in Summer Learning Award Winning Programs
Malbert Smith is a national education leader committed to improving the math and literacy skills of America's children. As the co-founder and CEO of MetaMetrix, his research has revolutionized not only the way reading and math are measured but also how teachers and parents can use test data to personalize instruction. He created the Lexile Framework for Reading and the Quantile Framework for Mathematics which are scales that connect test scores to instruction. Today, Lexile and Quantile measures are used by every major test publisher and instructional company inside their products. Over 40 million students in the US receive Lexile measures from statewide and interim assessments throughout the year, and teachers use these scores to match students with appropriate instructional materials. Not only are Lexiles the de facto standard for the measurement of reading in the US but also across the globe. Educators and English Language Learners from over 50 countries rely on Lexiles.

Malbert has worked with the leadership teams from dozens of state departments of education on assessment and accountability issues. He has helped more than ten states launch summer reading programs designed to combat summer loss, especially among low-income students. Florida, Kentucky, North Carolina and Oklahoma have featured Dr. Smith on their television programs. He also partnered with Harvard University’s Dr. James Kim on an I3 grant to study the effects of summer loss.

Malbert is a Research Professor at the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill where he was awarded the Distinguished Alumni Award. In addition to his long-term board membership on the National Summer Learning Association, he serves on the UNC’s School of Education Board of Visitors, the North Carolina Foundation for Public School Children and the American Association of School Administration Learning 2025 Commission. Malbert also serves as an advisor to the Council of Chief State School Officers on the National Teacher of the Year Program. Malbert and his wife, Alisa Edwards Smith, live in Chapel Hill, NC. They have three children Jeni Harrell, Elizabeth Lattanzio and Malbert Smith IV and four grandchildren (Isabel, Victoria, Eliza and Ryder).

Malbert Smith
CEO, Metametrics

**CELEBRATION**

NEW YORK LIFE FOUNDATION

**HONOREES**

Inspired by New York Life’s tradition of service and humanity, the New York Life Foundation has, since its founding in 1979, provided over $415 million in charitable contributions to national and local nonprofit organizations. The Foundation supports programs that benefit young people, particularly in the areas of educational enhancement, childhood bereavement and social justice. The Foundation also encourages and facilitates the community involvement of employees and agents of New York Life through its Volunteers for Good program and Grief-Sensitive Schools Initiative.

Since 2010, the New York Life Foundation has partnered with the National Summer Learning Association (NSLA) providing over $3.7 million in grants and corporate support. The Foundation’s support of the Excellence in Summer Learning Awards, plays a key role in highlighting the importance of summer learning programs for young people. The awards recognize outstanding summer programs that demonstrate excellence in accelerating academic achievement and promoting healthy development for children and youth.

Research suggests students who begin high school “on track” are four times more likely to graduate and go on to college. This is why The New York Life Foundation's educational enhancement priority is to support out-of-school time programs that help middle school students’ successfully transition from middle school to high school, both academically and socially. Summer learning programs play a critical role in a young person’s life and are a key component of the Foundation’s grantmaking strategy.

**DARRYL MCDANIELS & SHEILA JAFFE**

Founders, The Felix Organization

Sheila Jaffe was born in Manhattan and grew up in the Bronx. At eleven years of age, she found out she was adopted. Today, she is an Emmy winning casting director for HBO’s, The Sopranos and Entourage and films including The Fighter, Rocky Balboa, and Ted. Although casting is her profession, Sheila’s passion is helping children. As she sees it: “Felix is like my child and watching Felix grow in its reach to help these children has been an indescribable blessing.” Sheila currently sits on the board of the Mark Wahlberg Youth Foundation and the Advisory Board of the Savannah Film Festival. In 2013, she was honored at The Children’s Rights Gala for her work with children in foster care.

For more than 25 years, Felix co-founder Darryl “DMC” McDaniels has had an influence on popular culture. The first rap group to grace the cover of Rolling Stone Magazine and the first to appear on MTV, Run DMC changed music. DMC continues to create, inspire and motivate. After discovering as an adult that he was adopted, DMC began his journey down another life path in search of his birth mother. While his struggle was captured in the Emmy-winning VH-1 documentary, “DMC: My Adoption Journey”, the process gave DMC insight and purpose, prompting him to become an advocate for adoption and foster children. He was invited to the White House by President Obama to address youth groups on responsibility and has appeared before Congress and State Legislatures in support of this cause. Along with his work as a musician, author, and speaker, DMC has been the recipient of awards including Hard Rock’s Love All Serve All Award for his philanthropic endeavors. DMC also sits on the board of directors of the JMJ Foundation, Children’s Rights, and Garden of Dreams.

**MALBERT SMITH III, PH.D.**

CEO, Metametrics

Darryl “DMC” McDaniels & Sheila Jaffe

New York Life Foundation

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Why NSLA and Summer Learning Matters for Kids?

Research shows that the summer months are one of the most inequitable yet entrepreneurial and impactful times for students. For 30 years, NSLA has convened, trained and supported its broad network of nearly 20,000 civic and education leaders representing schools, districts and state education agencies, non-profit organizations, government agencies, researchers, foundations and corporate partners. NSLA works to ensure all young people in America, regardless of background, income, and zip code can participate in and benefit from a high quality summer learning experience each year.

In response to the recent negative effects of the Covid 19 pandemic on the academic, physical and emotional well-being of young people, summer learning has emerged as a key national response strategy to help students catch up and propel forward. NSLA works with national, state and local leaders in these areas: Program Quality, Partnerships, Policy, Public Awareness and Leadership Development.

NSLA’S Signature Initiatives

Program Quality
• New York Life Excellence in Summer Learning Awards
• 2-day Virtual Summer Planning Bootcamp
• Consulting and Training

Partnerships
• Camp-School Partnership Project
• Ten Professional Summer Learning Communities

Policy
• Founding Partner in the US Department of Education’s Engage Every Student Initiative
• State Summer Learning Network with Council of Chief State School Officers (CCSSO)

Public Awareness
• DiscoverSummer.org National Website and Media Campaign
• Annual State of Summer Research Report with Harvard University’s PEAR Program

Leadership Development
• Summer Innovation Fellowship
• National Youth Leadership Institute
• Paid Capitol Hill Summer Internship Program
Gold Table Sponsor  $50,000
• 2 Premium Tables of 10
• Recognition from the stage at the Celebration Dinner
• Listing on the screen in the Digital Program
• Inclusion in all post-event press releases
• Acknowledgement on the event website
• Sponsorship of a Summer Innovation Fellow or Professional Learning Community

Silver Table Sponsor  $25,000
• Premium Table of 10
• Recognition from the stage at the Celebration Dinner
• Listing on the screen in the Digital Program
• Acknowledgement on the event website
• Sponsorship of a Summer Policy Intern

Bronze Table Sponsor  $10,000
• Premium Table of 10
• Recognition from the stage at the Celebration Dinner
• Listing on the screen in the Digital Program
• Acknowledgement on the event website

Cocktail Reception Sponsor  $50,000
(One Available)
• 2 Premium Tables of 10
• Recognition during the Cocktail Reception
• Listing on the screen in the Digital Program
• Inclusion in all post-event press releases
• Acknowledgement on the event website

Dessert Reception Sponsor  $30,000
(Three Available)
• Premium Table of 10
• Recognition throughout the Dessert Reception
• Listing on the screen in the Digital Program
• Acknowledgement on the event website

Individual Tickets:  $1,000
• One ticket to the Cocktail Reception, Celebration Dinner, & Dessert Receptions

Digital Journal Advertising:  $2,500
The 30th Anniversary Digital Journal is an opportunity to support the work of the National Summer Learning Association by purchasing an advertisement or including a tribute message which will be viewed through the evening and on the event website after the Celebration Dinner.
• Please submit jpeg and/or pdf to Lauren Krattiger, Director of Communications lkrattiger@summerlearning.org
You may provide a brief message with logo.

To Register online or make a donation, please visit summerlearning.org

Contributions:

I am unable to attend the Celebration Dinner but would like to sponsor one student to attend.

I am unable to attend the Celebration Dinner but would like to support the National Summer Learning Association. I am pleased to enclose my fully tax-deductible donation in the amount of $___________.

Enclosed is my company’s matching gift form. My company will match my gift in the amount of: $___________.

I do not plan on filling my seat(s); please:
• Fill seat(s) with student(s)
• Utilize as an unrestricted gift

Checks should be made payable to:
The National Summer Learning Association and returned to 1701 Pennsylvania Ave., Suite 200, Washington, DC 20006.
ABOUT THE NATIONAL SUMMER LEARNING ASSOCIATION (NSLA)

For 30 years, NSLA has worked to combat summer learning loss and close the achievement and opportunity gaps which research shows grows most dramatically between lower and higher income students over the summer months.

Our vision is, and always has been, to ensure all young people in America, regardless of background, income, and zip-code, can participate in and benefit from a high-quality summer learning experience, every year.

NSLA supports and collaborates with a broad and ever-growing network of 20,000+ leaders of school districts, youth serving government agencies, non-profit and corporate partners from across the country focused on improving the lives of young people and their families.

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