



Governors' Extra Learning Opportunities (ELO) Summits, January – August 2004

In July 2003, the NGA Center for Best Practices awarded funds to 13 states, with support from the [Charles Stewart Mott Foundation](#) and [The Wallace Foundation](#), to conduct governors' summits on extra learning opportunities (ELOs). Summits have focused on a number of goals, such as engaging business partners at the state and local levels, building support among new state leaders, and/or strengthening statewide networks to support ELOs. A summary of the ELO summit competition, along with the accompanying press release, can be accessed at http://www.nga.org/center/divisions/1,1188,C_ISSUE_BRIEF^D_5813,00.html.

Successful governors' summits seek to engage new partners who are critical in influencing state policies that impact ELOs. Summits often incorporate the following elements:

- Enjoy direct gubernatorial involvement and support;
- Bring together a broad range of stakeholders- state, local, elected, public, private, youth, educators, agency representatives, and others;
- Provide a forum where specific state actions, policy solutions, and/or next steps can be discussed and clearly articulated; and
- Showcase innovative or promising practices for ELOs.

Following are summaries of governors' ELO summits that have been held to date.

Wyoming: On January 14th, 2004, Wyoming held the summit through the state's videoconference technology to reach 26 sites remotely. After hearing taped remarks from Governor Freudenthal and Superintendent of Public Instruction Trent Blankenship, local leaders had the opportunity to learn about state supports, collaboration opportunities, and sustainability strategies for ELOs in communities. In follow-up, each group of participating community stakeholders devised community plans to support ELO development with state support.

Kansas: On January 29th and 30th, 2004, Governor Sebelius held the ELO summit in conjunction with the Kansas workforce summit, with the 'E3' theme: Education, Employment and Economic Development. The combined summit allowed the opportunity to promote increased partnerships between workforce leaders, businesses, and ELO programs. Governor Sebelius concentrated her remarks on the intersections between education and business, and the important role the ELO programs can play in educating children, helping them develop critical workforce skills, and supporting working families. Donna Klein, President and CEO of [Corporate Voices for Working Families](#), reiterated this message during another keynote session, highlighting the work of Corporate Voices and suggesting ways for businesses at all levels to become involved. Breakout sessions showcased innovative ways in which business and ELO programs

supported each other at the local level—helping youth develop workforce skills, enhancing local economies, and matching afterschool attendees with job experiences. The summit also featured an invitation-only ‘think tank’ dinner, which provided opportunity for discussion among high-level cabinet staff, agency representatives, foundation leaders, business leaders, and others to consider next steps for state afterschool policies that bridge the common priorities of diverse stakeholders.

Virginia: Governor Warner’s ELO summit was held April 20, 2004 in Richmond and also at five additional remote sites throughout Virginia that were linked via video-conference technology. Governor Warner, in taped remarks, discussed the importance of ELOs in helping children and families succeed beyond the classroom, the role of ELOs in helping children meet learning standards, and the need to strategically partner and align resources in communities to enhance ELO opportunities. Judy Samelson of the [Afterschool Alliance](#) provided the national perspective and spearheaded a question and answer discussion along with Superintendent of Public Instruction Jo Lynne DeMary and Secretary of Education Belle Wheelan. Superintendent DeMary cited the importance of developing an infrastructure to track and support programs, the multiple layers and questions surrounding accountability, and the need to identify how state resources may be maximized to better support ELO efforts. After the panel, each site engaged in a facilitated discussion to share ELO efforts in their communities, specific challenges, and policy solutions around providing quality ELOs for students from kindergarten to the twelfth grade.

South Carolina: On March 24th, 2004, Governor Sanford’s office hosted a breakfast of legislators, business leaders and other key state stakeholders to educate, discuss, and consider new ways to support ELO programs, particularly through public-private partnerships. In addition to Rita Allison, Governor Sanford’s Education Advisor, speakers on the benefits of afterschool programs included: Inez Tenenbaum, Superintendent of Education; William Byars, Director of the Department of Juvenile Justice; Senator Darryl Jackson; Senator Gerald Malloy; Jalaina LaGree of a local Boys and Girls Club; Zelda Waymer, Executive Director, South Carolina Afterschool Alliance, and Don Herriot, President of Roche Carolina. As a result of the summit, six businesses pledged financial and in-kind support to local programs and statewide ELO efforts. Don Herriot of Roche Carolina, Senator Darryl Jackson, and NFL running back Duce Staley also agreed to serve as champions for afterschool in South Carolina.

Montana: On March 24th and 25th, 2004, Governor Martz hosted state agency heads, legislators, local leadership, private and foundation representatives and other stakeholders at the capitol to consider a state plan to support ELOs. Over the two days, participants engaged in a number of small group discussions facilitated by Fred Schrupf of the Washington Afterschool Network, to arrive at concrete action steps. Judy Samelson of the [Afterschool Alliance](#) provided a dinner keynote providing a national context on afterschool. The summit resulted in expanded membership and interest in the Montana Afterschool Network and a plan of action to formalize and strengthen its work. Leaders presented this plan, along with a summit summary, to Governor Martz as well as the Interim Committee on Children and Families during April and May. Action steps include developing state level leadership, creating a common message, and expanding and connecting local efforts to support ELOs across the state.

North Carolina: In partnership with the [North Carolina Center for Afterschool Programs \(NCCAP\)](#), Governor Easley’s office hosted a morning Forum on Afterschool on April 29th, 2004. This Forum was held in conjunction with the state’s first annual afterschool conference. The smaller Forum allowed state and local elected officials, state agency staff, law enforcement officials, foundation representatives, state

board members, and others to discuss potential avenues for strengthened state/local partnerships and new financing strategies for afterschool in North Carolina. At lunch, participants were able to join afterschool providers from their communities and regions to discuss local successes and challenges in administering afterschool programs. Other key feature of the lunch agenda:

- Howard Lee, Chairman of the State Board of Education, provided remarks on behalf of Governor Easley and pledged state support for ELOs in North Carolina.
- The [Afterschool Alliance](#) and NCCAP unveiled a new public service announcement to air on television stations across North Carolina.
- Youth representatives talked about how afterschool has helped them succeed.
- Donna Klein of [Corporate Voices for Working Families](#) discussed the potential for new business involvement in afterschool programs.

Rhode Island: In partnership with the newly formed Rhode Island After-school Plus Alliance, Governor Carcieri hosted a half-day after school summit on May 13th, 2004. The summit, co-sponsored by the Rhode Island Department of Elementary and Secondary Education and the United Way of Rhode Island, allowed for presentations and facilitated discussion about the importance and role of ELO programs across the state. The summit featured:

- Release of findings from a statewide parent survey on afterschool;
- Keynote address by Karen Pittman of the [Forum for Youth Investment](#) on the ways ELO programs complement formal learning;
- Community panel highlighting local afterschool collaborations in Providence, featuring Mayor Cicilline, a middle school principal, business leader, police officer, and youth worker;
- Youth presentation of a student-produced video on promising afterschool programs; and
- Call to action from Peter McWalters, Commissioner of the Rhode Island Department of Elementary and Secondary Education, who charged participants, particularly corporations, to take responsibility and use their power to get involved.

As follow up to the summit, the Director of the Governor's Office of Community Relations and his policy advisors are working with the Youth Development Council, a subcommittee of the Children's Cabinet, to focus dedicated attention on an afterschool policy agenda. The Youth Development Council enjoys representation from key leaders on the Rhode Island After-school Plus Alliance, state agency representatives, and community leaders.

Vermont: On May 24th, 2004, Governor Douglas, in conjunction with the Vermont Out-of-School Time Network (VOOST), hosted the Governor's Leadership Summit on Out-of-School Time. The summit featured:

- A roundtable discussion, where Vermont youth shared their experiences on ELOs with Governor Douglas and Lt. Governor Dubie;
- A panel discussion by state agency commissioners of education, health, and public safety on the importance of out-of-school time programming;

- A performance by a statewide youth theater group;
- Regional planning time for local stakeholders; and
- Remarks from Dr. Beth Miller on the role of afterschool in improving academic achievement and Murray Banks, former Vermont teacher of the year, on strategies to keep youth engaged and active during out-of-school time programs.

For more information, view the press release at

<http://www.vermont.gov/tools/whatsnew2/index.php?topic=GovPressReleases&id=717&v=Article>

Connecticut: The June 4th, 2004 summit was sponsored by the Juvenile Justice Advisory Committee in conjunction with the State Department of Education, the Commission on Children, and other agency partners. Prior to the formal summit, invitation-only dinner and breakfast sessions brought together state agency commissioners, state legislators, two mayors, foundation representatives, and business leaders to learn about and discuss the potential for ELO programs in Connecticut. The After School Summit, which included providers and other local stakeholders, featured the following speakers and sessions:

- Welcoming remarks on the importance of afterschool from Associate Commissioner George Coleman, State Department of Education and Commissioner Darlene Dunbar, Department of Children and Families;
- Panel on Connecticut perspectives, featuring State Representative Elizabeth Boukus; Linda Hodge, President of the National PTA; Kevin Kopetz, First Selectman, North Haven; State Representative Marie Lopez Kirkley-Bey; State Representative Anne L. Ruwet; and Mr. John Motley, President, Travelers Foundation;
- Keynote remarks from Dr. Beth Miller on the educational benefits of afterschool;
- A video highlighting local afterschool programs and the youth perspective; and
- Best practices sessions focused on state and local collaboration, quality programming elements, family involvement, and program sustainability.

New Hampshire: On June 30, 2004, Governor Benson hosted a breakfast summit for business leaders to inform them about the progress of ELOs in the state and the role they can play in strengthening New Hampshire's programs. The Governor's office, [PlusTime NH](#), and The Governor's Task Force on Afterschool organized the summit. Thomas Raffio, the 2004 Business Leader of the Year, and member of the Governor's Task Force welcomed his business colleagues to the Summit. Cynthia Billings, CEO of PlusTime NH highlighted the success of afterschool programs across the state. Ana Garcia, the seventeen year old New Hampshire Youth of the Year shared her story of growth through her involvement with the [Boys and Girls Clubs](#). Judy Samelson of the [Afterschool Alliance](#) provided national data to underscore the critical need to increase commitment to afterschool. Governor Benson then offered seven ideas for businesses to help sustain local programs, including contributing to his \$1.5 million Afterschool Challenge. Governor Benson announced a personal pledge of \$50,000 from the Governor and his wife to the fundraising effort. Program directors, Task Force members, and youth participants from across New Hampshire joined the business leaders at each of the breakfast tables during the Summit.

For more information, see related press releases at http://www.state.nh.us/governor/pr_02_05_04vista.html and http://www.state.nh.us/governor/pr_06_29_043to6challenge.html.

Arizona: Governor Napolitano's ELO summit, held August 20th, 2004 provided opportunities for participants to hear and provide input on the role of ELOs as part of the state's youth development policy agenda. The summit is part of a larger series of meetings that aim to elicit broad input on children, youth and family policies. Lynne Borden, Chair of the Arizona Statewide Youth Development Task Force, opened the day by outlining the charge of the Task Force and future activities. Dr. Heather Weiss, Founder and Director of the Harvard Family Research Project, delivered the plenary, which highlighted ways the state can work to build a complimentary learning system where out-of-school time programs play a vital role. Dr. Weiss emphasized the importance of linking and aligning out-of-school time efforts to those of education and business and supporting a statewide infrastructure that promotes quality while maintaining variety in programming for youth. A fishbowl discussion, facilitated by Byron Garrett, Director of the Governor's Division for Community and Youth Development, featured perspectives from youth as well as the business, faith-based, education and foundation communities. Smaller workshops allowed summit participants—representing public, private, nonprofit and philanthropic sectors from across the state—to contribute their perspectives on the benefits and challenges of ELOs in Arizona, contributions they can make to support ELOs, and directions for state policy on youth development and ELOs. For more information on the Arizona Statewide Youth Development Task Force, visit <http://www.volunteerarizona.org/taskforce/main.htm>. The executive order creating the Task Force is also available at http://www.governor.state.az.us/eo/2004_14.pdf.