



News

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New York Edge Hosts Gala to Support Afterschool & Summer Programming for Thousands of NYC Students

Spring Gala featured performance by GRAMMY-nominated Alphabet Rockers and students from New York Edge's dance and step programs;

New York Edge presented recognitions to honorees for commitment to advancing education for youth

New York, NY – May 12, 2022 – [New York Edge](#), the largest provider of school-based afterschool and summer programming in New York City, hosted its Spring Gala on Tuesday, May 10 to support its mission of providing enriching afterschool and summer programming for thousands of students across New York City. This year's event honored several leaders for their commitment to advancing education for youth and featured performances by GRAMMY-nominated Alphabet Rockers, a jazz ensemble, and students from New York Edge's dance and step programs.

"The New York Edge Gala was a spectacular celebration of the profound impact our afterschool and summer programs continue to have on countless young people, while raising critical funds that will enable us to strengthen our initiatives and reach more students throughout the five boroughs," said **Rachael Gazdick, CEO of New York Edge**. "The funds raised during this year's event will support our efforts of ensuring all students have access to enriching, constructive programming that will empower them to reach their full potential and provide them with the edge to succeed. I'd like to thank our honorees, Dr. Hainline, Ms. OConnell, and Mr. Young for their dedication to improving educational outcomes for youth, and I extend my gratitude to everyone who joined to support New York Edge's mission."

The evening opened with a special performance by students from New York Edge's dance and step programs, featuring a step routine with beatboxing by **Tommy Shepherd** of the Alphabet Rockers. **Sam Champion** – weathercaster for ABC and emcee of the New York Edge Gala – took the stage to welcome guests, emphasizing the importance of New York Edge's mission. Following, **Susan Newman** and **Niesha Foster** of New York Edge's Board of Directors thanked the organization's network of supporters and donors for playing an important role in helping to turn dreams into realities for thousands of youth.

Throughout the evening, New York Edge CEO **Rachael Gazdick** presented awards to the honorees:

- **Dr. Brian Hainline**, Chief Medical Officer of the NCAA, was recognized for his profound work advocating for safety, excellence, and wellness in college student-athletes and encouraging life-long physical and mental development;
- **Debra OConnell**, President of Networks for Disney Media & Entertainment Distribution, was honored for her ongoing support of youth-related charities and her commitment to mentoring;
- **Craig Young**, Managing Director, Mid-Atlantic Division Executive at Merrill Lynch, was recognized for his work promoting a diverse and inclusive environment in the workplace.

This year's New York Edge Gala also featured a live auction as well as an exciting performance by GRAMMY-nominated Alphabet Rockers.

About New York Edge

New York Edge is a non-profit organization and the largest provider of afterschool and summer camp programs in all five boroughs of New York City. With thousands of students in more than 100 schools in grades K-12, New York Edge bridges the opportunity gap faced by students in underinvested communities by strengthening academic performance, health and wellness, self-confidence, and leadership skills for success in life. www.newyorkedge.org

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