



News

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New Yorkers Gather to Support Thousands of NYC Students During New York Edge Gala

*Spring Gala featured performance by Broadway performer Kayla Davion
& students from New York Edge's programs;*

Recognitions presented to New York State Governor Kathy Hochul, Random House Children's Books, Penguin Random House President & Publisher Barbara Marcus, JLL Capital Markets Head – NY Private Capital Group Bob Knakal, & Howard Woolley Group CEO Howard Woolley

New York, NY – May 9, 2023 – New York City students took the stage to deliver an inspiring performance with Kayla Davion and Broadway Events for hundreds of New Yorkers at [New York Edge's](#) Spring Gala on May 9, which raised funds to support the city's largest provider of school-based afterschool and summer programs, and honored several leaders for their commitment to improving educational outcomes for youth.

"When young people have access to the resources, support and experiences that will allow them to discover their strengths and gain new perspectives, they can achieve anything they set their minds to. This year's Spring Gala will enable us to continue providing these invaluable opportunities for more students across the five boroughs and on Long Island, so they can become the next innovators, changemakers and leaders," said **Rachael Gazdick, CEO of New York Edge**. "I'd like to extend my gratitude to Governor Hochul, Ms. Marcus, Mr. Knakal, and Mr. Woolley for their dedication to advancing educational equity, and I am grateful to all who joined us for a truly fantastic evening that raised critical funds 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 Kayla Davion, who played Tina Turner in the Broadway production. **Sam Champion** – weathercaster for ABC – joined as emcee of the Gala, welcoming guests and emphasizing the importance of New York Edge's mission. Following, New York Edge Board Chair **Francis Greenburger** thanked the organization's supporters and donors for playing a critical role in providing programs that help thousands of young people to succeed personally and academically.

Throughout the evening, New York Edge Board Chair **Francis Greenburger** and New York Edge CEO **Rachael Gazdick** presented awards to the honorees:

- **Governor Kathy Hochul** was recognized for her leadership and support of afterschool programming, with **Suzanne Miles-Gustave, Esq.**, acting commissioner and executive

deputy commissioner of the New York State Office of Children and Family Services, accepting the award on her behalf.

- **Barbara Marcus**, president and publisher of Random House Children's Books, Penguin Random House, was honored for her profound work to promote children's literacy;
- **Bob Knakal**, Head – NY Private Capital Group within JLL Capital Markets, was recognized for his passionate support of educational opportunities for young New Yorkers; and
- **Howard Woolley**, chief executive officer of the Howard Woolley Group, was honored for his commitment to promoting the arts and diversity, equity and inclusion in education.

This year's New York Edge Spring Gala also featured a live auction with **Paul Florez**, as well as a special performance by Kayla Davion.

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 and Long Island. With thousands of students in 116 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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