

The Future of Youth Development: Vision to Action Summit

Tuesday, October 14, 2025

**National Academy of Sciences Building
Great Hall
2101 Constitution Ave., N.W.
Washington, DC**

Purpose: Youth development is essential to the well-being and success of young people, providing them with the relationships, environments, and opportunities they need to thrive. Out-of-school time (OST) programs are a powerful part of this ecosystem, serving as a bridge between school, home, and community. These programs offer safe, supportive spaces for children and youth to grow socially, emotionally, and academically. The National Academies recently released a new consensus report, [*The Future of Youth Development: Building Systems and Strengthening Programs*](#), that charts the growth, complexity, and promise of the field, while offering concrete recommendations to expand access and impact.

To move from vision to action, this action-oriented summit will spotlight the roles of state and local leaders, intermediaries, and key youth development actors. Through expert panels, state and local success stories, and collaborative tabletop discussions, participants will explore how to build stronger systems, scale what works, and ensure that all young people have access to high-quality OST opportunities.

TUESDAY, OCTOBER 14, 2025, GREAT HALL

9:00am *Registration opens and breakfast available in the West Court.*

9:30am – 9:45am **Welcome**
Deborah Moroney, American Institutes for Research and Chair, *Future of Youth Development*
Bronwyn Bevan, Wallace Foundation

9:45am – 10:15am **Panel 1: We are the Future of Youth Development**
Moderator: Emilie Smith, Michigan State University and Committee Member, *Future of Youth Development*

Amanda Okwara, STEM Next
Michelle Marfo, STEM Next
Avery Lee, STEM Next

10:15am – 10:30am **BREAK**

10:30am – 11:45am **Panel 2: From Vision to Action: Leadership for the Future of Youth Development**

Moderator: Gerard Robinson, University of Virginia and Committee Member, *Future of Youth Development*

Megan Degenfelder, Wyoming State Superintendent of Public Instruction

Michael Funk, California Department of Education

Marcus Pope, Youthprise

Deanna Reed, Mayor of Harrisonburg, Virginia

11:45am – 12:30pm Tabletop Discussion 1

Facilitated dialogue at tabletops.

Guiding Questions:

- *Impact:* How do you demonstrate the impact and communicate the benefits of programs for youth and communities? What voices, shared messages, frames, or efforts could help the field communicate with more clarity and power to make the case for investment?
- *Youth Voice:* How can we center and uplift the voices of the youth and families involved in OST programs?
- *Moving to Action:* What do you think are the biggest barriers to implementing effective models in OST programs and youth development in your community, and how can we overcome those challenges?

Report Out Facilitator: Thomas Akiva, University of Pittsburgh and Committee Member, *Future of Youth Development*

12:30pm – 1:30pm LUNCH

1:30pm – 2:45pm Panel 3: Building the Future of Youth Development: The Role of Partnerships and Intermediaries

Moderator: Helen Malone, Institute for Educational Leadership and Committee Member, *Future of Youth Development*

Adam Alonso, YMCA Chicago

James E. Doyle, The Grable Foundation

Rachel Tecca, Youth Success Summit

Dr. Laveta Wills-Hale, Arkansas Out of School Network

2:45pm – 3:00pm BREAK

3:00pm – 3:45pm Tabletop Discussion 2

Facilitated dialogue at tabletops.

Guiding Questions:

- *Sustainability:* What are the most effective ways to create alignment between public policy, private sector investment, philanthropy, and community initiatives to ensure sustainable OST opportunities for all youth?
- *Intermediaries:* How can intermediaries be leveraged to address issues of access and quality? What are promising models?
- *Workforce:* What are promising approaches to supporting and developing the workforce? How can we grow the pipeline of youth development professionals, and what supports are needed to ensure that this workforce is diverse, culturally-attuned, and well-supported?

- *Moving to Action:* What's one idea or lesson from the panel you could apply immediately in your own role? How will you implement that work?

Report Out Facilitator: Thomas Akiva, University of Pittsburgh and Committee Member, *Future of Youth Development*

3:45pm – 4:00pm

Closing Reflections

Deborah Moroney, American Institutes for Research and Chair, *Future of Youth Development*

4:00pm

RECEPTION

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