



Press Release: Indiana Afterschool Network  
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**2015 Indiana Summit on Out-of-School Learning Comes to Indianapolis  
April 13-14 at the JW Marriott Downtown**

The annual, statewide **Summit on Out-Of-School Learning**, hosted by the Indiana Afterschool Network and the Indiana Department of Education, comes to Indianapolis **April 13-14** at the Indianapolis **JW Marriott Hotel**.

This year's theme, **I AM Indiana Afterschool**, brings together the state's top talent to share the latest advances in the field of afterschool. Over 700 youth workers, educators, community partners and policy leaders will gather from around Indiana, all of them involved in bringing quality, out-of-school and summer learning opportunities to Indiana's K-12 youth.

Summit highlights include talks by noted thought leaders in the field, workshops on a variety of topics dealing with program quality standards, best practices, higher education and workforce concerns, as well as state policy issues around afterschool.

This year's **Opening Session** examines the role of afterschool in the education and success of Indiana's youth. Participants include: **Glenda Ritz, State Superintendent of Public Instruction, Dennis Kruse, State Senator/Senate Education Chair, Melanie Brizzi, Director, Indiana Office of Early Childhood and Out-of-School Learning, Karen Freeman-Wilson, Mayor City of Gary, and Jodi Grant, Executive Director, National Afterschool Alliance. Opening facilitated by Scott Elliott, Chalkbeat Indiana.**

**The Indiana Chamber of Commerce will present a panel of top Indiana business leaders** discussing the state's skill needs across industries and explore ways business can partner with youth programs to get kids career ready. **Guests for this panel include executives from healthcare, manufacturing, agribusiness and aerospace.**

**Thought Leaders** addressing the Summit this year come with varied backgrounds and stories: **Don Wettrick** is an Innovation Specialist and author at Noblesville High School; **Scott Elliott** is founding Bureau Chief of Chalkbeat Indiana and an award-winning journalist; **Earl Martin Phalen** founded BELL and Summer Advantage USA, the nation's leading afterschool models reaching thousands of students.

**This year Purdue University is sponsoring an Evening Reception for attendees and special guests at the Indianapolis Zoo, April 13<sup>th</sup>, 4:30 – 6:30 PM.** The event includes music, hors d'oeuvres, a visit to the zoo's Orangutan Exhibit, and hands-on driving fun, courtesy of Purdue's School of Motor Sports.

**For more information:** <http://www.indianaafterschool.org/quality/conferences-specialevents/2015-summit/>

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