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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE CONTACT: Joseph Morra (401) 444-0615

joseph.morra@afterschoolri.org

**DISCOUNTED EARLY REGISTRATION OFFERED FOR 11th ANNUAL LIGHTS ON
AFTERSCHOOL! BREAKFAST OF CHAMPIONS HOSTED BY RIASPA**

Five Education Professionals Will Spotlight Innovative “Out-of-School” Time

Learning Opportunities for Children

PROVIDENCE, R.I., AUGUST 28, 2013 – The Lights On Afterschool! Breakfast of Champions is the state’s signature annual event for afterschool and summer learning educators as well as school administrators, elected officials and community leaders who recognize and support the importance of exemplary educational programs for youth and children.

The 11th annual breakfast, to be held Wednesday, October 16, 8-9:30 a.m. at Rhodes on the Pawtuxet in Cranston, is hosted by Rhode Island Afterschool Plus Alliance (RIASPA), an education initiative of United Way of Rhode Island. This year’s event embraces the theme, “Expanding Minds and Opportunities,” which explores how the power of afterschool and summer learning programs offer authentic student, community, and family engagement in a wide array of educational experiences. The Lights On Afterschool! Breakfast of Champions is a meeting place for committed stakeholders to unite and share ideas that can provide inspiration for expanding the minds of Rhode Island youth through high-quality, experiential afterschool and summer learning programs.

RIASPA introduces a new format at the 2013 Breakfast of Champions. Shifting from a traditional one keynote speaker model, RIASPA has invited five impassioned and influential speakers on both the national and local levels to share their ideas about out-of-school time education. In a series of short presentations, Martin J. Blank from the Coalition for Community Schools, Washington, D.C.; U.S. Congressman David Cicilline; Adeola Oredola from Youth In Action, a youth-led Providence non-profit; Gara Field, principal at Pleasant

View Elementary School, Providence; and Julian Santiago, a senior at Alvarez High School and board co-chair of the statewide organization Young Voices, will share their collective personal experiences as well as research and data to demonstrate the ways that afterschool truly expands minds and opportunities. The inspiring presentations are intended to introduce a spectrum of concepts to spark ongoing stakeholder conversations and ideas.

In addition to educators and professionals in afterschool education and summer learning, RIASPA welcomes the general public to the breakfast as well.

“The Lights On Afterschool Breakfast is an exciting chance for anyone and everyone interested in afterschool and summer learning to come together and share thoughts, observations and ideas that will maintain Rhode Island’s national leadership role in both out-of-school time innovation and application,” said RIASPA Executive Director Adam Greenman. “We certainly feel that this year’s presentations will not only reinforce current practices in the field, but will likely lead to inspired thinking and some new approaches.”

The RIASPA Lights On Afterschool! Breakfast of Champions runs from 8 to 9:30 a.m. Tickets are \$35. Early registration tickets are only \$30 if purchased on or before September 28. There is online registration with credit card payment available at <https://uwriweb.org/lightson>. The event’s registration form is also available at RIASPA’s website - www.afterschoolri.org - and must be mailed with a check or money order to, RIASPA, c/o Joseph Morra, 50 Valley St., Providence, RI, 02909. For more event information, contact Morra at 401-444-0615 or joseph.morra@afterschoolri.org.

RIASPA, an education initiative of United Way of Rhode Island, is a 1,200-member organization that serves over 15,000 children and youth statewide through its work with high-quality afterschool and summer learning programs. RIASPA advocates for improving how, when, and where children learn to ensure they are successful in school and in life.

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