



City of New Orleans

Mayor LaToya Cantrell



Dear Friends,

As Mayor of the City of New Orleans, it is with great enthusiasm that I welcome the 27th Annual Beyond School Hours National Education Conference attendees to our great city. Education remains a top priority for my administration and vital to the overall growth and prosperity of our city as well as cities across the nation. For this reason, I established the Office of Youth and Families as soon as I took office in May 2018 to support our young adults and their development. So, it is an honor to host the nation's most popular education conference, where leaders from across the country will share strategies for improving the quality of K-12 learning nationwide.

For the past twenty-seven years, Foundations, Inc., a non-profit that is nationally known for its leadership in the movement to increase the quality of education for underserved youth, has annually organized the Beyond School Hours Conference. A premier gathering space for educators and thought leaders to discover what's new in funding and programming strategies, while attending workshops, and seeing best practices in action with visits to local schools and programs. Traditionally, the conference has been produced with help from prominent partners, including the United States Department of Education 21st Century Community Learning Centers Program. Let us continue to foster and develop progressive partnerships like these as we move the needle forward in 2024.

Thank you for your tireless work and efforts, but don't forget to have fun and immerse yourself in everything New Orleans has to offer while you're here. The energy of our city is unmatched. Treat yourself to famous cuisines at our local restaurants, dance to the beat with our local jazz musicians, and visit our exceptional cultural establishments to indulge in some of New Orleans' history such as the Louisiana Civil Rights Museum – located near the Julia Street entrance of the Ernest. N. Morial Convention Center, The National World War II Museum, New Orleans Museum of Art, and the Ashé Cultural Arts Center. Lastly, I extend my best wishes for an inspirational conference.

Sincerely,

LaToya Cantrell
Mayor, City of New Orleans