

## WELCOME

On October 28, the Robert Bowne Foundation put on its fancy duds and dancing shoes and celebrated over 45 years of supporting afterschool programming and literacy across the United States, with a special focus on the children of New York City. Over the last few decades, the foundation's work of professional development, technical assistance, curriculum development, publication of *Afterschool Matters*, and funding for out-of-school organizations has changed the experience of afterschool programming for countless children and adults.

The National Institute on Out-of-School Time has been fortunate to work as a partner with the Robert Bowne Foundation for the last seven years. We have gratefully accepted an opportunity to extend the foundation's reach beyond its closing through a five-year legacy grant in support of the National Afterschool Matters Fellowship.

Early this fall, 23 out-of-school time program professionals from around the country gathered on the Wellesley College campus in Wellesley, Massachusetts, to begin their research fellowship. This inquiry-based fellowship will enhance their own practice and will improve program quality and experiences for children and youth. Fellows participate in facilitated virtual meetings over the course of two years to produce products such as manuscripts for publication, conference presentations, blogs, or recorded webinars. They will reflect on their practice, engage in inquiry projects based on their own questions and concerns, and write and share about their work.

We view these fellows as agents of reform. We anticipate that they and others who follow will enthusiastically and capably carry on the good and noble work of the Bowne Foundation to improve the lives of children everywhere.

Congratulations to the Robert Bowne Foundation on a job well done!



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*Afterschool Matters* is a national, peer-reviewed journal dedicated to promoting professionalism, scholarship, and consciousness in the field of afterschool education. Published by the Robert Bowne Foundation and the National Institute on Out-of-School Time, the journal serves those involved in developing and running programs for youth during the out-of-school hours, in addition to those engaged in research and shaping policy. For information on *Afterschool Matters* and the Afterschool Matters Initiative, contact Georgia Hall, Senior Research Scientist, National Institute on Out-of-School Time, Wellesley Centers for Women, Wellesley College, 106 Central Street, Wellesley, MA 02481, [asmsubmission@wellesley.edu](mailto:asmsubmission@wellesley.edu)