



## National Conference Attendees Visit After-School All-Stars (ASAS) Programs in Dallas

*(March, 2016) The 2016 Beyond School Hours National Education Conference was hosted in Dallas, where 100 attendees toured after-school programming at ASAS.*

After-School-All-Stars (ASAS) North Texas partnered with Foundation Inc.'s Beyond School Hours National Education Conference to showcase the importance of high-quality afterschool programming. This 2016 annual Beyond School Hours Conference was held March 9<sup>th</sup>-12<sup>th</sup> in Dallas, TX. Nearly 2000 educators, thought leaders, and distinguished guests took advantage of an exciting roster of professional development activities designed to improve the quality of education for K-12 students. Conference attendees from across the country came to discover strategies for programming and funding while connecting with peers and experts in the Out of School Time (OST) field.

The conference gathered after-school experts to plan a variety of workshops about pressing issues in the OST community. Executive Director of ASAS North Texas, Marissa Castro Mikoy, and ASAS National Volunteer and Program Coordinator, Alyssa Plotkin, co-presented a workshop on how ASAS' national "We Are Ready" initiative has been successful in ensuring ASAS participants are on track to graduate high school. The workshop highlighted ASAS' approach to tackling high school dropout prevention by focusing efforts to middle school students.

Two ASAS sites were selected from among a dozen candidates to host attendee site visits to local after-school programs, a signature of BSH Conference programming. Attendees visited E.H. Cary Middle School and Irma Rangel Young Women's Leadership Academy. While touring the ASAS programs, visitors saw students participating in a variety of enrichment classes such as Google coding, DJ music production, STEP, and Rock Band. Executive Director, Marissa Castro Mikoy, explained to visitors, "Student voice and choice paired with dedicated program leaders are two necessary components to develop a high quality, engaging program."

"We were incredibly proud to present two ASAS sites in our exclusive lineup of only four after-school site visits at BSH," remarked John Henderson, Executive Director of Communications at Foundations,



*Pictured above: ASAS staff presenting on high school readiness curriculum for at-risk middle students.*

Inc., “From all accounts, our national attendees were truly impressed with the quality of programming – and the incredible students and staff at the ASAS sites.” Thanks to the collaboration with the Beyond School Hours Conference, ASAS was able to continue spreading the importance of high quality after school programs for middle school students in the Dallas community. Mark your calendars for next year’s Beyond School Hours Conference February 22-25<sup>th</sup>, 2017 in Atlanta, Georgia!



*Pictured above: Beyond School Hours attendees cheered on ASAS students as they performed a newly choreographed STEP routine. After the performance, an inspired BSH guest hopped on stage to teach students a new STEP.*

**For inquiries, please contact:**

Marissa Castro Mikoy  
214-570-4855  
marissa@as-as.org

**About ASAS North Texas:**

ASAS North Texas provides free, daily comprehensive after-school programs that educate, enlighten and inspire deserving youths from the North Texas community. It is one of the 15 chapters of ASAS, a national non-profit organization that serves more than 70,000 young Americans, 90 percent of which come from under resourced communities. ASAS was founded in 1992 by Arnold Schwarzenegger, who now serves as honorary chairman. The North Texas chapter opened in 2012, and now ASAS North Texas is serving 250 students at 3 Title 1 schools during the 2015-2015 school year. For more information, visit [www.asasnorthtexas.org](http://www.asasnorthtexas.org).

**More Information on Foundations, Inc.:**

Foundations, Inc., a national nonprofit 501(c)(3) organization, is committed to building the quality of educational opportunities for children, youth, and families through work with public and charter schools, school districts, education and community-based organizations, and the afterschool field. Foundations has convened the annual Beyond School Hours® National Education Conference for educators and thought leaders since 1998. [www.foundationsinc.org](http://www.foundationsinc.org) | [www.beyondschoolhours.org](http://www.beyondschoolhours.org)