2017 National Conference
*Summer Changes Everything*TM *– We've Got the Power!*
Phoenix, Arizona
October 23-25, 2017

CALL FOR PRESENTATIONS
Deadline: March 31, 2017

I. General Information

About NSLA
The National Summer Learning Association (NSLA) is the only national organization dedicated to closing the achievement gap by increasing access to high-quality summer learning programs. NSLA serves as a network hub for thousands of summer learning program providers and stakeholders across the country, providing tools, resources, and expertise to improve program quality, generate support, and increase youth access and participation. We offer professional development, quality assessment and evaluation, and strategic consulting to states, school districts, community organizations, and funders.

We've Got the Power!
The National Summer Learning Association (NSLA) presents *Summer Changes Everything*TM – its national conference focused on summer learning and afterschool solutions aimed at closing the opportunity and achievement gap – heads to the great city of Phoenix, AZ, October 23-25, 2017. Research confirms summer as one of the most inequitable times of the year for millions of young people in America and this year's theme: **We've Got the Power** captures the critical work underway in programs, in schools and communities across the country to change that.

We've Got the Power! rings true in the implementation of the Every Student Succeeds Act (ESSA) which will afford states and local communities new opportunities to reimagine and invest in creative strategies to keep kids learning, safe and healthy after the school bell rings. **We've Got the Power!** calls upon our collective will and the leadership of legions of educators, community members, and corporate leaders to step up, speak out and stand in the gap for our nation's children. We can't wait to see you at *Summer Changes Everything*TM!

The deadline for presentation submissions is March 31, 2017.

II. Presentation Guidelines

Session Guidelines

All workshop sessions will be 75 minutes. **Each session must provide demonstrations, activities, examples, research, practical tools, implementation plan, and/or discussion addressing how summer learning opportunities can contribute to the education and healthy development of young people.** Presenters should address how their presentation supports equity in their workshop. Accepted workshops will explicitly satisfy this requirement in the proposal's design.

Presenters should plan to speak for no more than half the session time to allow participants ample opportunity to interact with each other, ask questions, and otherwise participate actively during the session. Each session should clearly outline the knowledge, skills, and techniques that participants will be able to put into practice immediately when they return to their programs and communities.

Through past conference evaluations, conference attendees have indicated a preference for sessions which have the following elements: a framework to understand best practices; examples and group exercises that empower and challenge them to plan improvements to their own programs, in their own communities, and for the fields of summer learning; and tools to take back to their programs and implement right away. In your proposal you will be asked to identify how you will frame the session, what activities you have planned and what tools and resources attendees will take back to their programs. You will also be asked to identify how your session addresses equity in education and how this session speaks to our bold theme, **We've Got the Power**!

Presenters that are accepted to be a part of the 2017 *Summer Changes Everything*^{TM} National Conference in Phoenix, Arizona will be expected to work with NSLA staff to formulate session objectives, craft final session abstracts and identify any presenter changes and updates prior to presenting in October.

Conference Strands
Accepted proposals will align with one of the following conference program strands. Your proposal should focus in one conference strand and one related content area. If you would like to present on more than one content area, please submit multiple proposals.

Program Planning Strand
Workshops will engage participants in developing quality at the program level. Successful workshops will provide concrete tools for improving the following content areas at the program level, supported by research and/or specific examples from the field. Sessions will target meeting the needs of executive directors, program managers and site coordinators.
Content areas include:
   Program Development
         o   Mission alignment and goal setting; strategic planning; developing your board
         o   Proactive planning; soliciting staff and youth input
         o   Curriculum development; scheduling; lesson planning; innovative practices
         o   Active learning; youth skill-building; reframing conflict/behavior management
         o   Health, fitness and nutrition

Quality Staff
- o Staff training and professional development; staff observation and feedback; competency-based training; staff retention; staff collaboration; year-round professional development; staff collaboration; support for non-certified staff and volunteers; effective staff meetings

Program Quality Improvement and Evaluation
- o Data collection and assessments; data management
- o Quality improvement planning cycle

Funding and budgeting
- o identifying and securing funding sources at the federal, state, local, and private levels; grant writing

Family Connections
- o Year-round contact; relationship building; family participation opportunities

Effective Learning Approaches Strand

How do you deliver instruction in informal settings? How do you target learning goals in an engaging way? How do you build program culture? Sessions offer practical strategies, examples, and approaches that support compelling, enriching, learning-centered programming that narrows the achievement gap and promotes healthy youth development. Sessions will target meeting the needs of program managers and frontline staff.
Content areas include:

Individualization and Access
- o Youth assessments, individualized, tailored instruction, curriculum implementation, youth recruitment and retention strategies, not-traditional settings

Interaction
- o Building a sense of belonging; unique program culture, youth collaboration and leadership, adults as partners; cultural competency and equity; social emotional learning

Engagement
- o Youth planning, choice, and reflection; learning strategies; encouraging higher order thinking and skill-building

Curriculums & Activities
- o STEM, literacy, enrichment activities

System Building Strand

These sessions will offer practical tips and highlight research on how community-wide summer learning and out-of-school time systems can lead to more youth served, higher quality programs, and positive outcomes achieved at scale. Sessions will provide tools, examples and resources for assessing the state of summer learning at the community level, building partnerships, planning a summer learning or out-of-school time system, or capacity building around key system competencies. These will target the needs of community intermediaries, summer learning champions and others in leadership roles looking to address out-of-school time learning at scale.

Shared Vision and Citywide Coordination: Creating a shared vision for summer learning guided by a multi-year, community-wide summer learning action plan that includes defined goals and strategies and aligns with education and out-of-school time priorities.

Engaging Leadership: Building partnerships between stakeholder group that represents key sectors including city and/or county agencies, schools, libraries, funders, program providers, intermediary or coordinating body, and other community members (including parents and youth).

Data Management: Processes for data sharing, collection and analysis across summer learning stakeholders.

Continuous Quality Improvement: Processes for quality improvement of both the summer learning system and summer learning opportunities.

Sustainable Resources: Identifying funding targets and strategies for scaling the system and improving quality of summer learning opportunities.

Marketing and Communications: Strategies to understand summer learning demand; build awareness of need and available resources; and support recruitment and enrollment.

Policy & Advocacy Strand

These sessions will highlight trends and achievements in summer learning research, policy, and advocacy at the local, state and national levels, and will target the needs of executive directors, school district and public agency leaders, and others in leadership roles.

Federal and state legislation: affecting summer learning

School district strategies: for creating and expanding summer learning opportunities

Statewide initiatives: that support, broaden access to, and/or increase youth participation in summer opportunities

Advocacy campaigns: at the state and national level

New research on summer opportunities: how research informs program practices

Crosscutting areas of interest

While not required, sessions addressing the following areas are of particular interest to NSLA:

- o STEM/STEAM
- o Equity
- o Digital learning
- o Early literacy
- o Libraries
- o Middle school transitions
- o Public housing
- o Rural & suburban communities

- o Parent Empowerment
- o College & Career Readiness
- o English Language Learners
- o Refugee & migrant youth
- o Homeless & foster youth
- o Adolescent brain development
- o Trauma-informed practice
- o Connecting the summer & school-year

Presenter Guidelines

- **All session presenters must register for and attend the conference <u>at their own expense</u>.** Presenters are offered a reduced conference registration fee of $425 for the full conference, and $350 to attend the day of the presentation only. These rates are available only for up to two (2) presenters per session. Presenters contribute their services in a volunteer capacity.
- All presenters **must** register for the conference once the presentation is approved by the committee. Registrations must be received by **July 15, 2017** in order to receive the presenter discounted conference rate.
- Sessions must be 75 minutes in length.
- Presenters should plan to be active on the conference mobile app before, during and after the conference to engage with conference attendees and promote their session to increase session engagement.
- Presenters must leave time available at the end of the session for attendees to complete session evaluations.
- Internet access is available for a fee of $50 per workshop session, and MUST be requested in advance. Payment will be due at registration.
- Presenters are responsible for providing all presentation materials and handouts.
- NSLA will provide flip charts, markers, LCD projectors, and screens as needed.
- Laptops will not be available; please plan to bring your own.
- The National Summer Learning Association's *Summer Changes Everything*^{TM} national conference is a non-commercial forum. The promotion or selling of products or services during breakout sessions is prohibited. ***Sales pitches disguised as presentations will not be considered.*** Conference exhibit space and sponsorships are available for this purpose.

III. Instructions for Submitting a Presenter Proposal
- All proposals are to be submitted using the online form. The link is found at the bottom of this page.
- As you are filling in the online form, look for underlined items that contain additional text to assist you with your proposal. You may read this text by hovering over the underlined words.
- **The online proposal form cannot be saved after you have begun working.** Please do not begin the online form until you are ready to submit your proposal.
- Please use the Printer-Friendly Proposal Worksheet when formulating your proposal. This will allow you to save your work in progress as a Word document. You may cut and paste your responses into the form when you are prepared to submit your final proposal.
- If you have any problems or questions about the online form or the proposal process, please contact Ryan Berlin at ryan@summerlearning.org or 410-856-1370 ext. 203 for assistance.

IV. Presenter Form
[Online Proposal Submission Form](#)
[Printer-Friendly Proposal Worksheet](#)

*Please remember to check your proposal for spelling and grammatical errors.

NSLA Workshop Suggestions

To help with your proposal, we would like to share some suggestions—adaptable to your subject matter— for making your workshop session engaging and effective. Feel free to highlight your strategies in your session description.

- Take a minute at the beginning to ask participants what they hope to get out of the session: Jot it down so you can manage expectations or tailor your content from the beginning.

- Create an atmosphere of "we're all in this together:" Let participants know that you expect and welcome full participation; everyone's contribution is important to the learning.

- Give participants a chance to share what they know on the subject: Our conference attendees are the sharpest, most sophisticated folks in the field. Just as kids like to connect what they are learning to what they already know, adults really benefit from the opportunity as well.

- Ask participants to reflect on, internalize and respond to information as you go. Don't give away all the answers. Again, just as we engage young people through critical thinking questions, be sure to ask plenty of why, how and what questions throughout your workshop. For example, rather than telling participants why a particular practice is so beneficial, ask them why they feel it is beneficial.

- Validate, restate and delegate questions: Turn to other audience members for responses to questions you can't answer. Just because you don't know the answer doesn't mean it's not a great question for the session!

- Model activities or practices you are encouraging participants to implement on their own:

- Role playing- participants can play students, staff, funders or parents to demonstrate and apply your lessons.
- Games- adults like to have fun, compete and be silly just like youth do. Give them a chance to let loose a little. Summer learning professionals are among the most creative people around. There is no challenge they can't meet when it comes to generating bright ideas for programs.

- Save time for a closing activity or reflection: It's really important to leave enough time to ask participants to share with the group what they learned, how their thinking has changed or what they plan to do with the information after leaving the conference. You can do this by asking for volunteers, giving short prompts for written reflection or tossing around a ball to put the control in the participants' hands.

- Session evaluations!: Finally, make sure to allow time for participants to fill out session evaluations on paper or on the mobile app. This is valuable feedback for both of us to support continuous improvement. Session evaluations will be made available in the mobile app 5 minutes before the end of the session time.