



**DENNIS WALCOTT AND NYC STUDENTS JOIN NBC NEWS AT THE NEW YORK PUBLIC LIBRARY TO OFFICIALLY KICK OFF THE 2012 "EDUCATION NATION" WEEK—FRIDAY, SEPT. 21 AT 9:00AM**

NEW YORK, NY— Sept.19, 2012—Chancellor Dennis Walcott of the New York City Department of Education, Dr. Anthony Marx of The New York Public Library (NYPL), and Dan Biederman, President of the Bryant Park Corporation, will join local students and representatives from NBC News and NBC 4 New York at a ceremony to kick off the 2012 "Education Nation" Week at the NYPL's Stephen A. Schwarzman building on Friday, Sept. 21 at 9:00am/et. NBC News' 2012 "Education Nation" Week includes the third annual National Summit from Sept. 23-25, a series of public events featuring NBC News journalists across the various branches of NYPL, and education programming across the network's shows and platforms from Sept. 21-28. NBC 4 New York's anchor Chuck Scarborough will emcee the event.

"The NBC Education Nation Summit is a rare opportunity for students, teachers, parents, schools, civic groups to come together and discuss the many issues facing our educational system," says Chancellor Walcott. "Our goal is to leave the Education Nation Summit with a better understanding of what we can do to cultivate teacher talent, create strong bonds between families and teachers, and prepare our nation's youth for success in careers, college, and higher education."

"The New York Public Library is proud to host the Education Nation summit, an exchange of ideas on how to improve education, society's most important and pressing need," said New York Public Library President Anthony W. Marx. "We're excited to participate in the opening ceremony, and launch this year's lineup of inspiring and enlightening programming."

The three-day Summit brings together 300 of the country's thought leaders in education, government, business, philanthropy and media to discuss the relationship between education and opportunity – helping to engage the United States in an unprecedented discussion about how to improve education and prepare Americans for the jobs of the future. Using the full strength and reach of NBC News broadcast, cable and digital platforms, the 2012 "Education Nation" Summit will focus on successful examples of innovation in education. Summit sessions, moderated by top NBC News journalists, and NBC's on-air programming will highlight a series of case studies from communities across the country, providing tools and takeaways for participants and viewers.

As part of a larger partnership aimed at engaging the public in free learning opportunities during the week of the "Education Nation" Summit, NBC News, NBC 4 New York and the NYPL will invite the public to take part in special events at branch libraries throughout the city featuring top NBC News journalists. For more information and to register for these special events, [click here](#).

To learn more about "Education Nation," visit [EducationNation.com](http://EducationNation.com), "Like" us on Facebook: [Facebook.com/EducationNation](https://www.facebook.com/EducationNation) or follow us on Twitter @EducationNation.

Sponsors of the 2012 "Education Nation" Summit include Citi, University of Phoenix, ExxonMobil, the American Federation of Teachers, the Bezos Family Foundation, the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation, Target, the W.K. Kellogg Foundation, National Education Association and State Farm ®. Knowledge Partners include the General Motors Foundation, Scholastic, NBC Learn and America's Promise Alliance.

**About "Education Nation"**

"Education Nation" seeks to create a thoughtful, well-informed dialogue with policymakers, thought-leaders, educators, parents and the public, in pursuit of the shared goal of providing every American with an opportunity to achieve the best education in the world. These discussions cover the challenges, potential solutions and innovations spanning the education landscape. By providing quality information to the public, NBC News hopes to provide information to Americans so they can make decisions about how best to improve our education system both in the near and long terms, and to shine a spotlight on one of the most urgent national issues of our time.