



NBCUNIVERSAL NEWS GROUP ANNOUNCES 2013 “EDUCATION NATION” “STUDENT TOWN HALL” AND “TEACHER TOWN HALL”

TOWN HALLS TO AIR ON MSNBC SUNDAY, OCTOBER 6

Melissa Harris-Perry to moderate “Student Town Hall” at The New York Public Library as a special edition of “Melissa Harris-Perry,” to air from 10:00AM/ET to 12:00PM/ET

Brian Williams to moderate “Teacher Town Hall” at The New York Public Library, live from Noon/ET to 2:00PM/ET

NEW YORK, NY—October 3, 2013— NBCUniversal News Group announced today that the second annual “Student Town Hall” and fourth annual “Teacher Town Hall” will air on MSNBC on Sunday, October 6th. The programs will be broadcast from The New York Public Library’s Stephen A. Schwarzman building in midtown Manhattan as part of the 2013 “Education Nation” Summit — which runs from Oct. 6-8. “Education Nation” will include a National Summit at The New York Public Library, as well as on-air and online education coverage across NBCUniversal News Group’s shows and platforms. To coincide with the theme of this year’s Summit, “What It Takes,” the discussions will focus on what it takes for teachers and students to be successful in today’s school system. NBC News is posting questions on [Facebook.com/EducationNation](https://www.facebook.com/EducationNation) and on Twitter, [@EducationNation](https://twitter.com/EducationNation), to shape and guide the discussions, and will collect responses and ideas leading up to the town halls.

MSNBC host Melissa Harris-Perry, a tenured professor at Tulane University, will moderate the discussion with nearly 300 students— giving them the opportunity to voice their ideas and concerns about performance, the new Common Core State Standards, safety on campus, student mobilization, technology in the classroom, and other topics.

“A quality education can change a young person’s life, but far too often we debate the issues we think need to be reformed without actually speaking directly with the students,” said Harris-Perry. “From exorbitant tuition prices, to the lack of art programs, to nutritious food being scarce in cafeterias, there are many crucial issues that affect America’s students. This is their chance to speak up and be heard.”

Brian Williams, anchor and managing editor of “NBC Nightly News,” will be joined by NBC News’ Chief Education Correspondent Rehema Ellis in leading a national conversation with America’s teachers. MSNBC’s Tamron Hall and NBC News’ Jenna Bush Hager will also take part in the two-hour live event and facilitate questions from the audience. The discussion will center on the most important challenges and opportunities teachers face in the classroom, and provide a forum to discuss how to ensure they receive the resources to successfully guide students in their academic careers. The program will offer teachers at the forefront an opportunity to voice their priorities, share innovative practices, brainstorm new ideas, discuss key policy issues, and ask questions of each other to advance the conversation about teaching in the U.S.

“Every year, our goal for the ‘Teacher Town Hall’ is to create a conversation by, for, and about teachers,” said Williams. “We’ll hear from educators around the country about what works, what doesn’t, and how they’re meeting challenges to help each student reach his or her full potential.”

To supplement the “Teacher Town Hall,” NBC News will host a special afternoon “Teacher Institute” — a series of workshops for teachers following the Town Hall that will provide useful information and expert guidance on the newly adopted Common Core State Standards and related shifts in classroom instruction. The workshops were developed in collaboration with America Achieves, American Federation of Teachers, Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation, The Leona M. and Harry B. Helmsley Charitable Trust, National Board for Professional Teaching Standards, National Education Association, Student Achievement Partners and Teaching Channel; and will feature lesson presentations and analysis by veteran teachers, helpful resources and tools, and opportunities for discussion. All sessions will be taped and made available online for free to teachers around the country at EducationNation.com and TeachingChannel.org.

In addition to the broadcast on MSNBC, both the “Student Town Hall” and “Teacher Town Hall” will be streamed on EducationNation.com, the NBC News YouTube channel, and YouTube’s Education channel. The “Student Town Hall” will stream from 8-10AM/ET and the “Teacher Town Hall” will stream live from 12-2PM/ET on all three platforms.

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Sponsors of the 2013 “Education Nation” Summit include ExxonMobil, Pearson, University of Phoenix, the W.K. Kellogg Foundation, Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation, American Federation of Teachers, Bezos Family Foundation, the College Board, The Leona M. and Harry B. Helmsley Charitable Trust, The William and Flora Hewlett Foundation, and Robin Hood. Knowledge Partners include America’s Promise Alliance and NBC Learn.

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, NBCUniversal News Group 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.

This year's Summit will stream live online at EducationNation.com and the [NBC News YouTube channel](#). It will also be featured on [YouTube's Education channel](#). For more information about "Education Nation," visit EducationNation.com, check us out on Facebook: facebook.com/EducationNation, or follow us on Twitter: [@EducationNation](https://twitter.com/EducationNation). Join the discussion with #EducationNation, and tell us "What It Takes" for student success at EducationNation.com/WhatItTakes.

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