

MAYORAL PROCLAMATION

WHEREAS, the residents of Madison stand firmly committed to quality afterschool programs and opportunities because they:

- Provide safe, challenging, and engaging learning experiences that help children develop social, emotional, physical and academic skills.
- Support working families by ensuring their children are safe and productive after the regular school day ends.
- Build stronger communities by involving students, parents, business leaders and adult volunteers in the lives of young people, thereby promoting positive relationships among youth, families and adults.
- Engage families, schools and community partners in advancing the welfare of our children; and

WHEREAS, *Lights On Afterschool*, the national celebration of afterschool programs, held this year on October 28th, promotes the importance of quality afterschool programs in the lives of children, families and communities; and

WHEREAS, 16,000 Madison children rely on afterschool organizations and the services they provide on a regular basis and throughout the pandemic afterschool organizations have been on the front-lines supporting youth; from delivering meals to students homes to operating in-person classrooms while schools were closed; and

WHEREAS, this essential work would not happen without thousands of youth workers who dedicate their lives to providing opportunities to young people in our community; and

WHEREAS, Voyinese (Ms. Nese) Adams of Urban League of Greater Madison, Pau Xiong of East Madison Community Center, Courtney Howard of Wisconsin Youth Company, Shane Saddison-Bradford of Neighborhood House, Hewan Schade of CEOs of Tomorrow, Lisbeth Solano of Lussier Community Education Center, John Harmelink of East Madison Community Center, Adriana Hernandez Perez of Goodman Community Center, Lupe Banda of MSCR, Erick Blue of MSCR, and Josh Harper of Wisconsin Youth Company, were nominated by their peers and selected by students as 2021 MOST outstanding youth workers; and

WHEREAS, they collectively have dedicated over 150 years of their lives to providing opportunities to and working on behalf of young people; and

WHEREAS, this year's winners are exceptional, but also represent a field full of people like them dedicated to using their lives to uplift young people.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that I, Mayor Satya Rhodes-Conway, on behalf of the residents of Madison, Wisconsin, do hereby proclaim **October 28th, 2021** as

Lights On Afterschool Day

Congratulations to the 2021 MOST Outstanding Youth Workers. I commit to do my part to ensure the lights stay on and the doors stay open for all young people after school.



Mayor Satya Rhodes-Conway

Signed and sealed this 28th day of October, 2021 at City Hall