

## **PROCLAMATION**

*WHEREAS, The citizens of Fargo, North Dakota 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, South East Education Cooperative has provided significant leadership in the area of community involvement in the education and well-being of our youth, grounded in the principle that quality afterschool programs are key to helping our children become successful adults; and*

*WHEREAS, Lights On Afterschool, the national celebration of afterschool programs held this year on October 22nd, promotes the importance of quality afterschool programs in the lives of children, families and communities; and*

*WHEREAS, More than 28 million children in the U.S. have parents who work outside the home, and 15.1 million children have no place to go after school; and*

*WHEREAS, Many afterschool programs across the country are facing funding shortfalls so severe that they are being forced to close their doors and turn off their lights; and*

*WHEREAS, Our community is committed to investing in the health and safety of all young people by providing expanded learning opportunities that will help close the achievement gap and prepare young people to compete in the global economy.*


*NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, That I, Timothy J. Mahoney, Mayor of the City of Fargo, do hereby proclaim October 22, 2015, to be*

### **LIGHTS ON AFTERSCHOOL DAY**

*in the City of Fargo, North Dakota and encourage all residents to engage in innovative afterschool programs and activities that ensure the lights stay on and the doors stay open for all children after school.*

*IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I have hereunto set my hand and caused the Seal of the City of Fargo, North Dakota to be affixed this 14th day of August, 2015.*



  
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Timothy J. Mahoney  
Mayor  
Fargo, North Dakota

August 12, 2015

Office of Mayor  
200 3rd St N, Fargo, ND 58102  
(701) 241-1310

Dear Mayor Mahoney,

On behalf of the Fargo based 21<sup>st</sup> Century Community Learning Centers, I am writing to request that October 22, 2015 be proclaimed as *Lights On Afterschool Day* in the city of Fargo.

*Lights On Afterschool Day* is the only nationwide event celebrating afterschool programs and their important role in the lives of children, families and communities. The effort has become a hallmark of the afterschool movement and generates media coverage across the country each year.

The Afterschool Alliance organizes *Lights On Afterschool* to draw attention to the many ways afterschool programs support students by offering them opportunities to learn new things—such as science, community service, robotics, Tae Kwon Do and poetry—and discover new skills. The events send a powerful message that millions more kids need quality afterschool programs.

Did you know that 20% of North Dakota's children in grades K-12 participate in afterschool programs? And that over 5,500 of those children participate in U.S. Department of Education's 21st Century Community Learning Centers initiative. Afterschool programs across the state participate in the *Lights On Afterschool Day*, whether it be a 1K run through the park or parade through town, this event gives the children the opportunity to express how much afterschool means to them and their families.

We ask that you please review the attached language. If you have any questions or issues that need to be addressed, feel free to contact the Afterschool Alliance by phone at 202-347-2030 ext. 109 or by e-mail at [dgilbert@afterschoolalliance.org](mailto:dgilbert@afterschoolalliance.org). Let us know we can count on your support for *Lights On Afterschool* by issuing a proclamation. We will then share your support with our state's programs, please email a pdf of the proclamation to [dgilbert@afterschoolalliance.org](mailto:dgilbert@afterschoolalliance.org) or mail a copy of your proclamation to the Afterschool Alliance, Attn: Dan Gilbert, 1616 H St. NW, Ste #820, Washington, DC 20006. Please also mail a copy to me at SEEC, Attn: Becky Mueller 1305 9<sup>th</sup> Ave. S., Fargo, ND 58103-2501.

Thank you for your support. We invite you to visit the *Lights On Afterschool* section of the Afterschool Alliance website, [afterschoolalliance.org](http://afterschoolalliance.org), to locate events in Fargo.

Sincerely,

Becky Mueller, SEEC  
Afterschool Partnership Coordinator