

February 2010

To Whom It May Concern:

Winning Beginning NY (WBNY) is a statewide coalition working to inform policy-makers and the public about the many benefits of early care and learning. The coalition aims to build a broad-based constituency to make investment in quality early care and learning a top public priority in New York State.

The WBNY **Leadership Initiative** is a new program designed to cultivate and support a diverse group of emerging leaders who in their professional capacity have demonstrated a commitment to working to improve the lives of young children. The nine month program will help participants hone their leadership skills, deepen their understanding of critical early childhood policy issues, broaden their networks and strengthen their ability to be an effective advocate.

The Initiative's goals are to support emerging leaders in their leadership and advocacy efforts throughout New York and to engage them as active and contributing members of WBNY.

It is anticipated that a cohort of only 15 will be selected for this inaugural year. If selected, candidates will be expected to participate in a series of learning and networking events including a two-day intensive leadership institute to be held in Albany, NY on June 24 - 25, 2010.

The Institute will be an opportunity for leadership and policy training with skilled facilitators, to network with fellow emerging leaders and to learn more about Winning Beginning NY's work. Further, we believe that participation in the Institute will serve as powerful professional development and that you and your organization will benefit from the opportunities your candidate will be afforded. We ask that you support the candidate's participation by agreeing to allow them to participate in all scheduled events related to the initiative. Further, we ask that employers cover travel costs to and from the two-day institute. All other cost related to the candidate's participation will be covered by the Institute.

Winning Beginning NY requires that applicant applications are submitted with a professional letter of recommendation from their employer, as well as a signed copy of the attached agreement of support.



## Winning Beginning NY Leadership Initiative

Applicants accepted to the WBNY Leadership Initiative will be expected to participate in all scheduled events as detailed below. Participant will need their employer’s approval for time out of the office and/or to participate in activities during regularly scheduled work days. We ask that you formally pledge your support by completing the agreement section below.

### Schedule of Events:

Leadership Webinar: Thursday, April 22<sup>nd</sup>, 9:00 – 11:00 am (No travel required)

Leadership Webinar: Thursday, May 13<sup>th</sup>, 9:00 – 11:00 am (No travel required)

Leadership Institute: Thursday, June 24<sup>th</sup> – Friday, June 25<sup>th</sup>, Albany, NY

### Agreement of Support

\_\_\_\_\_ has my full support to participate in all  
(Candidate’s name)

Winning Beginning NY Leadership activities, including the two-day Leadership Institute.

\_\_\_\_\_

Name

\_\_\_\_\_

Title

\_\_\_\_\_

Signature

\_\_\_\_\_

Date