

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Contact: Olivia Spelman

Phone: 617-209-9247

Email: olivia@walthampartnershipforyouth.org

Waltham Partnership for Youth's 2022 Partner Appreciation Celebration Unites Businesses and Community

[Waltham, MA] Waltham Partnership for Youth's Annual Partner Appreciation Celebration will be held May 25th, 5:00-7:00pm at the LaCava Tent at Bentley University, 175 Forest Street, Waltham. This event brings together over 100 business and community stakeholders in Waltham and focuses on recognizing impactful relationships between local companies, organizations, and community members. These relationships tackle critical challenges youth face, including a lack of workforce development opportunities, substance misuse and mental health issues, and disparities in educational success.

We would like to give special recognition to this year's Equity Partner, AstraZeneca.

Astrazeneca has been a dedicated partner for many years and has generously hosted student interns, welcomed WPY for a staff retreat, and even donated furniture for our office. As one of the most popular employer partners in our internship program, AstraZeneca gives young people the opportunity to experience hands-on, cutting-edge research in labs at the BioHub in Waltham. "We are two veteran organizations in the Waltham community partnering together, missions aligned...helping young adults move their careers. We want to support those who are going on to perhaps be in these labs and discover medicines for people in the future." -Geoffrey A. Gallo, Director of State Government Affairs at AstraZeneca.

Individual tickets and sponsorship opportunities are available at: <https://conta.cc/3rhbldh>

"This is such an exciting time in WPY's history. Our team is growing rapidly, we're engaging with more students than ever before, and our relationships with community partners are thriving," stated Kaytie Dowcett, Executive Director of Waltham Partnership for Youth. "The Partner Appreciation Celebration is a time for the entire community to celebrate the work we all do with and for young people. Here in Waltham, we work so hard throughout the year to support our young people; this event is a way for all of us to reflect on our successes and take advantage of the strong community we've built."

The program will feature keynote speaker Dr. E. LaBrent Chrite, President of Bentley University. Dr. Chrite is an experienced higher education leader with a background in global economic and

business development. His work has been aimed at strengthening private sector development, enabling environment creation and entrepreneurship toward the reduction of poverty.

WPY's 2022 Community Impact Award will be presented to the Bentley Service-Learning and Civic Engagement Center (BSLCE). The Bentley Service-Learning and Civic Engagement Center engages over 1,000 students each academic year in intensive service opportunities, working with community partners to co-create sustainable, high-impact programs that strengthen our community. Bentley's Career Success Institute volunteers helped WPY to nearly double the number of student interns we serve by hosting resume and cover letter workshops in addition to conducting student interviews and offering interview feedback. Join us in celebrating the many ways BSLCE has helped expand opportunities for Waltham youth and families!

All proceeds of this event benefit Waltham Partnership for Youth programs.

WPY works to ensure that the wealth of resources in and around Waltham are available for the youth and families who need them most. We facilitate high-impact community partnerships that support health and wellness, leadership development, and economic opportunity for Waltham youth while working to address long-standing structural inequities.

WPY's current programming includes the Career Exploration & Training Program, which connects students with paid internships and career exploration opportunities. The Wraparound Waltham program is a multi-agency collaborative which provides support to address academic and non-academic needs of newcomer immigrant students. The WPY Coalition brings together representatives from all sectors of the community to think together about how to foster a healthier community and promote mental health and wellness. At the forefront of this Coalition work are the Trailblazers, a group of young people who pave the way in educating and advocating for youth change around mental health awareness and substance misuse.