



For Immediate Distribution
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**BOOST NETWORK HOSTS KVIA, THE EL PASO CHIHUAHUAS, REGIONAL
NONPROFITS, & YOUTH FOR NATIONAL LIGHTS ON AFTERSCHOOL
CELEBRATION**

*Lights On celebrates the role afterschool programs play in youth development across
the Borderplex*

EL PASO, TX -- Yesterday afternoon the BOOST Network hosted the residents of the Borderplex region as part of the Afterschool Alliance's nationwide Lights On Afterschool initiative at a virtual celebration. The event featured local providers of afterschool programs as well as youth from the Paso del Norte region who shared how afterschool programs are positively impacting their lives. KVIA anchor Dylan McKim was the MC for the event, and special guests included the El Paso Chihuahuas, YMCA El Paso, and the Boys & Girls Club of Las Cruces.

Youth and their families joined the event to show off their completed interactive activities and to highlight the positive effects of afterschool programs on the mental and physical health and development of students in our region.

"As an information source for the Paso del Norte region, I understand the importance of spreading the word about afterschool programs and how they benefit the health and overall quality of life of youth in our community," said Dylan McKim, anchor and reporter for KVIA. "We are grateful to the BOOST Network and its members for their partnership in ensuring kids in our region continue to learn and stay active."

Established in 2015, the BOOST Network is made possible through a partnership between the Paso del Norte Health Foundation and the United Way of El Paso County. The BOOST Network brings together more than 40 out-of-school time providers from El Paso, Texas,

southern New Mexico, and Ciudad Juarez, with the common goals of strengthening the quality of out-of-school time programs and increasing youth participation in these programs.

“Now is an important time to celebrate the importance of out-of-school time providers and let our community know how crucial youth participation in their programs are to recovering from the pandemic and to the future generations of the Borderplex,” said Ashley Echavarría, CEO of the Boys & Girls Club Las Cruces. “We are grateful to be part of the BOOST Network, which has helped our organization improve and innovate the afterschool programs we offer to families living in our community.”

Members of the BOOST Network offer programs that focus on a wide array of areas, including athletics, arts and music, academic support, leadership development, summer enrichment, STEM-based activities and more. Through the Network, these OST providers work together to continuously improve the quality of their programs and increase the overall presence of afterschool programs in the borderland community.

“The United Way is proud to support the BOOST Network and their work to keep kids safe, inspire them to learn, and help working families in the process,” said Deborah Zuloaga, CEO of the United Way of El Paso County. “Showcasing the hard work and contributions to our community that afterschool programs provide is important and will increase their visibility to more parents and kids that need them.”

To learn more about the BOOST Network and its resources, please visit: theboostnetwork.org.

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