

From: **Summer Learning Collaborative, Inc.**

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Wilmington DE, Oct. 18, 2018 - The ascena Foundation has recognized SummerCollab and its founder & CEO, Catherine Lindroth, along with two other extraordinary changemakers, with a Roslyn S. Jaffe Award.

“The Roslyn S. Jaffe Awards is a not-for-profit program that gives financial awards to everyday heroes who are making the world a better place for women and children specifically in the areas of health, education, social reform and self-esteem. These awards honor the lifelong contributions of Roslyn S. Jaffe,”¹ founder of dressbarn.

Over 2,500 nominations were received, and three awards given this year. One of the top prizes was awarded to SummerCollab for their work in Delaware.

SummerCollab is a 501(c)(3) nonprofit founded and based in Wilmington, Delaware. Acting on research that is often overlooked, SummerCollab focuses its efforts on Summer - a window of time recognized by the National Summer Learning Association (NSLA) as “the most unequal time of year in America.” SummerCollab was also the 2017 Excellence Award Winner from the National Summer Learning Association (NSLA).

Current and past award winners of the Jaffe Award include Generation Hope (winner of the 2015 CNN Heroes award), Found in Translation, Appetite For Change, and The Breast Cancer Task Force. In receiving this award, SummerCollab joins an Alumni Network supported by Ascena’s Executive Team with partners like Ashoka, a leading Social Impact Consultancy.

Ascena Retail Group gives over 125 MM every year to support social justice issues around the globe, targeting support to women and children. SummerCollab supports women and their families by ensuring that they have high-quality out of school time opportunities for their children that meet their precise social-emotional and academic needs.

“It is imperative that low income children - *who often lag behind in literacy, and who are hungry for positive, self-defining moments* - access programs with high expectations and high quality educators, appropriate staffing, and engaging, exploratory programing,” explains Founder, Catherine Lindroth.

“Unfortunately this isn’t the norm - and it’s no one’s fault. The budget margins in our community simply can’t translate into the social and emotional supports we know are needed to level the playing field.”

¹ <https://www.jaffeawards.com/about>

“What makes our program distinct is rather than building a new program that competes with existing out of school operators, SummerCollab was born out of a collaboration between those established programs. Over several years the it’s “founding members,” which included West End Neighborhood House, Hilltop Lutheran Neighborhood Center, Walnut Street YMCA, and a handful of B&G Clubs, formed a group, facilitated by Catherine, and mentored by top programs in the country like The Exploration School and Outward Bound.

Today, with funding from key partners at Barclaycard, the Laffey-McHugh Foundation, Capital One, the Longwood Foundation, AmeriCorps, Arshat Cannon Fund, Delmarva Power, the Delaware Criminal Justice Council, United Way, Discover, WSFS, and Corporation Service Company, SummerCollab has expanded rapidly to include new community partners like Kingswood Community Center and UrbanPromise, as well as schools like Serviam Girls Academy, Freire Charter School, and EastSide Charter School.

“This year, deepening our partnership with school districts - the Red Clay and Colonial are the first - offered their highest need youth a K-8th grade summer learning system - linking infrastructure between communities *and* schools.”

Across its network of partner sites, SummerCollab programming reached nearly 3,000 students of low-income across the state of Delaware, through its partnerships with community centers and local school districts. As a result, 86% of participants bucked the trend, reversing summer learning loss for over 2,300 youth in Sussex and New Castle County.