



**NBC NEWS ANNOUNCES SECOND-ANNUAL NATIONAL "TEACHER TOWN HALL" WILL AIR LIVE ON MSNBC AS PART OF THE 2011 "EDUCATION NATION" SUMMIT**

*Brian Williams Will Moderate the Event in New York on Sunday, September 25th at Noon/ET*

*EducationNation.com Launches Essay Contest Asking Teachers about Their Biggest Challenges and How They Measure Their Own Success; Winners Will Be Brought to New York to Attend the Town Hall*

New York, NY – August 4, 2011 – NBC News will host a gathering of teachers from across the country for the second-annual nationally televised "Teacher Town Hall." This special event will be held on Sunday, September 25<sup>th</sup>, and broadcast live on MSNBC at Noon/ET. The "Teacher Town Hall" is part of the 2011 "Education Nation" National Summit, which consists of live events and panel sessions on Rockefeller Plaza in New York City, and is complemented by education reports and programming across the network's shows and platforms during the week of September 25<sup>th</sup>.

Brian Williams, anchor and managing editor of "NBC Nightly News," will moderate the discussion, with help from MSNBC's Tamron Hall, who will facilitate questions from the audience. NBC News' Chief Education Correspondent Rehema Ellis will also take part, moderating and reporting an online conversation with teachers across the country during the two-hour live event. The program—for and about teachers— will focus on the most important challenges and opportunities facing America's teachers, and feature examples of great teaching from various schools and classrooms across the country.

This year's national "Teacher Town Hall" builds on the first annual event in September of 2010, as well as local town halls with teachers in Chicago, Los Angeles and Philadelphia that were held as part of the "Education Nation On-The-Road" tour in May and June of 2011.

"As the foremost authorities on what's taking place in our schools today, teachers continue to play a critical role in our "Education Nation" events and programming," said Steve Capus, President of NBC News. "Given the dynamic and impactful dialogue at last year's national event, and the powerful conversations we had on the road with teachers in Chicago, Los Angeles and Philadelphia, we're looking forward to continuing the discussion and seeking solutions once again with this year's Teacher Town Hall."

As hundreds of teachers gather in-person at Rockefeller Plaza in New York City, NBC News is also inviting teachers from across the country to join the conversation virtually by registering to take part in the conversation at [EducationNation.com](http://EducationNation.com). The "Teacher Town Hall" will offer America's educators on the frontlines an opportunity to voice their priorities, brainstorm new ideas, discuss key policy issues, and

ask questions of each other to advance the conversation about teaching in the United States. Registration for this event will be available on [EducationNation.com](http://EducationNation.com) in early September 2011.

In addition to the broadcast on MSNBC, the “Teacher Town Hall” will stream live online at [EducationNation.com](http://EducationNation.com), [Scholastic.com](http://Scholastic.com), [iVillage.com](http://iVillage.com) and [msnbc.com](http://msnbc.com).

In an effort to identify and confront the biggest challenges that teachers face on a daily basis, and to learn more about how educators measure their own success, EducationNation’s [The Learning Curve](#) blog is launching a teacher essay contest for teachers nationwide. NBC News will select three winners and bring them to New York City for the Teacher Town Hall. The winners will also have their essays published on [EducationNation.com](http://EducationNation.com) during the Summit in September. A panel of NBC News journalists and education experts will judge the essays, and will be looking for honest, personal accounts that show a unique side of teaching that isn’t read about in the daily headlines. For more information on the contest and to submit an essay, visit [EducationNation.com](http://EducationNation.com). The contest closes on September 2, 2011 at 5:00 PM/ET.

“Education Nation” was recently nominated for three News & Documentary Emmy Awards, including a nomination for [EducationNation.com](http://EducationNation.com) in the “New Approaches To News & Documentary Programming: Current News Coverage” category, and a nomination for MSNBC’s 2010 live “Teacher Town Hall” in the “Outstanding News Discussion & Analysis” category. To view last year’s town hall, [click here](#). For information about all of the “Education Nation” nominations, visit the Academy of Television Arts & Sciences [website](#).

The 2011 “Teacher Town Hall” is supported by the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation and Scholastic. Sponsors of the 2011 “Education Nation” Summit include University of Phoenix, State Farm®, The Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation, The Bezos Family Foundation, The W.K. Kellogg Foundation and The Eli & Edythe Broad Foundation.

**“Education Nation”** seeks to create a thoughtful, well-informed dialogue with policymakers, thought-leaders, educators and the public, in pursuit of the shared goal of providing every American with an opportunity to achieve the best education in the world. These discussions cover the challenges, potential solutions and innovations spanning the education landscape. By providing quality information to the public, NBC News hopes to educate Americans so they can make decisions about how best to improve our education system both in the near and long terms, and to shine a spotlight on one of the most urgent national issues of our time, so that America can once again become an Education Nation.

For more information about “Education Nation,” visit [EducationNation.com](http://EducationNation.com), check us out on Facebook: [facebook.com/EducationNation](http://facebook.com/EducationNation) or follow us on Twitter [@EducationNation](http://@EducationNation).