



CONTACT:

Lucy Friedman

646.943.8701

[lfriedman@expandedschools.org](mailto:lfriedman@expandedschools.org)

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## **NYC NON-PROFIT WINS \$2.3 MILLION GRANT FROM U.S. DOE Design2Learn promotes STEM engagement in high-need schools**

The United States Department of Education just awarded a \$2.3 million grant to ExpandED Schools (formerly TASC) to launch Design2Learn, a science intervention featuring collaborative teaching, curricular bridging and a design-based approach in expanded learning time.

The project will work in 15 schools from the highest-need districts in New York City that serve a disproportionate number of students of color who are traditionally underrepresented in the sciences. Three hundred middle school students per year, for three years, will participate in weekly, design-based science instruction during after-school hours that aims to connect science learning goals to real-world activities.

In the short term, the project is designed to improve students' academic achievement and increase their level of interest and engagement in science. Ultimately, though, it aims to equip high-need students with the science skills and sustained interest to compete for, and succeed in, the jobs of the 21<sup>st</sup> century.

Lucy Friedman, President of ExpandED Schools, says, "After-school science programs are ideal for sparking student curiosity and transforming kids into explorers and problem solvers. Not worrying about grades frees students to take risks. And taking risks is essential to learning."

The project will engage the following partners: NYC Department of Education, the New York Hall of Science and the Research Alliance for NYC Schools.

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*ExpandED Schools (formerly TASC) is a nonprofit dedicated to closing the learning gap by increasing access to enriched education experiences. In school, after school and during the summer, ExpandED Schools reimagines learning time, seeking to ensure that all kids have opportunities to discover their talents and develop their full potential.*