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## **PRESS RELEASE**

### **Global Extended Learning and Youth Development Association (GELYDA) Appoints Its Inaugural Advisory Board**

Boston, MA – The newly formed Global Extended Learning and Youth Development Association (GELYDA) is pleased to announce the appointment of its inaugural Advisory Board. GELYDA is a new international organization dedicated to understanding, supporting, and improving expanded opportunities for learning, development, and thriving in schools, afterschool and summer programs, and communities. It aims to establish an inter-continental field of extended education that strengthens young people, their educators, and families wherever they live and learn. The association plans to achieve these ambitious goals through strong translational research, systematic evaluation, and the use of evidence that will support practitioners and policymakers.

The Advisory Board's purpose will be to inform the organization's strategic decisions, foster global collaboration and partnerships, inform policies and practices in extended learning and youth development, and support the organization's diverse communication and convening opportunities. The inaugural co-chairs are the GELYDA Founder, Dr. Gil Noam, Associate Professor at Harvard Medical School and Founder of Institute for the Study of Resilience in Youth (ISRY) at McLean Hospital/Harvard Medical School, and Dr. Helen Janc Malone, Chief Strategy and Innovation Officer, Institute for Educational Leadership (IEL).

The Advisory Board is comprised of the following global field leaders and scholars:

- Erika Bienek, Director of Community Relations, Techint Group (Argentina)
- Dr. Carol Maher, Professor, University of South Australia (Australia)
- Dr. Bettina Dahl Søndergaard, Associate Professor, Aalborg University (Denmark)
- Dr. Mohamed El Nagdi, Coordinator & Instructor, American University in Cairo (Egypt)
- Dr. Kristin Kerr, Senior Lecturer, Manchester Institute of Education (England)
- Dr. Wolfram Rollett, Professor, University of Oldenburg (Germany)

- Dr. Madhav Chavan, Co-Founder, Pratham (India)
- Dr. Yaacov Yablon, Founding Dean of the Faculty of Education, Bar-Ilan University (Israel)
- Kazu Furukawa, President, National Institute for Youth Education (Japan)
- Jerry Lengoasa, Director, Disaster Risk Solutions Pty (South Africa)
- Aaron Dworkin, CEO, National Summer Learning Association (NSLA) (USA)
- **(Chair) Dr. Helen Janc Malone, Chief Strategy and Innovation Officer, Institute for Educational Leadership (IEL) (USA)**
- Jan Morrison, Co-Founder and CEO, Teaching Institute for Excellence in STEM (TIES) (USA)
- **(Founder) Dr. Gil Noam, Executive Chair, Partnership in Education and Resilience (PEAR)**
- Arthur Pearson, Former President and CEO, Thompson Island Outward Bound (USA)

GELYDA's first hybrid conference, *Science and Practice of Extended Learning, Youth Development, and Wellbeing*, will be held June 11-13, 2025 in Reykjavik, Iceland. You can learn more about GELYDA by visiting <https://www.gelyda.org/> and more about the conference on the Association's website or the conference site (<https://gelyda2025.hi.is/>).