



**FROM: TIMES SQUARE NEW YEAR'S EVE**

***FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE***

**TIMES SQUARE NEW YEAR'S EVE  
HONORS SCIENCE TEACHERS & STUDENTS ADDRESSING CLIMATE CHANGE,  
THE DOMINANT GLOBAL NEWS THEME OF 2019**

***Two Award-Winning NYC Public School Science Teachers and Top Students  
to Appear on Stage as Evening's Special Guests***

**NEW YORK - December 28, 2019** – Times Square Alliance and Countdown Entertainment, co-organizers of Times Square New Year's Eve, announced today that the event this year will officially honor science teachers and their students in response to global concern about climate change in 2019 and the role of youth in both demanding and creating solutions to the climate crisis. This year's Special Guests will be two award-winning NYC high school science teachers and four of their students, all from New York City's public schools, representing all those around the world who are harnessing science and youth to address 2019's most-talked-about issue.

As the evening's Special Guests, the group will push the crystal button on the main stage in the center of Times Square, which signals the lowering of the Waterford Crystal Times Square New Year's Eve Ball. The moment — viewed by billions across the world — officially begins the 60-second countdown to the New Year. Due in part to the presence of the Special Guests, the moment is historically seen as a celebration of the human spirit and a source of hope for the New Year.

“On New Year's Eve, we look back and reflect on the dominant themes of the past year, and seek hope and inspiration as we look forward. You'd have to have your head buried in the Saudi Arabian sand to not be alarmed by all of the environmental catastrophes of 2019, and you'd also have to have a soul of Styrofoam not to be moved by the passion of young people demanding that we do better, and ‘listen to the science’ to start solving the problem,” said **Tim Tompkins, President of the Times Square Alliance**. “Well, we are listening to the science *teachers* - and celebrating them and their students because they are working to solve this global problem through science: two top high school science teachers here in New York City, along with four of their top students.”

The two teachers, **Jared Fox** and **Aida Rosenbaum**, represent two of the seven recipients of the Fund for the City of New York's 11<sup>th</sup> annual Sloan Awards for Excellence in Teaching Science and Mathematics. The awards recognize creative science and mathematics teachers in New York City public high schools who achieve superb outcomes and promote a love for science and mathematics, often inspiring students to pursue careers in science and math.

“We are very proud to highlight the importance of climate change and the future role of teachers, students and science in solving it” said **Jeff Straus, President of Countdown Entertainment**. “This year’s Special Guests may not yet be household names, but the work they and others like them are doing may well be the key to saving households around the globe from the consequences of global warming in the years to come.”

**Fox**, who teaches at the Washington Heights Expeditionary Learning School in Upper Manhattan, will be joined on stage by seniors **Ricardo Herrera** and **Mayerling Lantigua**, who are working to create a “Clean Air Green Corridor” between their school and Highbridge Park. **Rosenbaum**, who teaches at the Bronx Latin School and graduated from Bronx Science (the NYC public high school that boasts the most Nobel Laureates among its alumni of any school in the world), will be joined by high school seniors **Daniel Soto** and **Van Troy Ulloa** from her AP Environmental Science class. They led a Walk for Water initiative to raise money for places without clean water and also organized participation in the Youth Climate March.

“I don’t really think action is going to take place unless the young people really push for it – they’re the future generation of voters and they have to have a really strong understanding of the science and be able to make evidence-based claims,” **Rosenbaum** stated. “It’s my hope that when people see me and my students on New Year’s Eve it will bring awareness to the cause, and that those watching will realize that it’s everybody’s responsibility to be part of solving climate change.”

“While climate change is a global threat, its impact will be felt locally and most acutely by minority and low-income communities like those around my school that have traditionally lacked power and agency,” said **Fox**. “As a result, I feel it is my responsibility as a science educator to empower my students with the knowledge, skills and activist know-how to make their voices heard and participation felt in the youth-led movement fighting for climate action.”

Prior Special Guests include former **UN Secretary-General Ban Ki-Moon, Muhammad Ali, Supreme Court Justice Sonya Sotomayor, former Secretary of State Colin Powell, Lady Gaga, former President Bill Clinton and then-Secretary of State Hillary Clinton, Medal of Honor winner Salvatore Giunta, #MeToo founder Tarana Burke, Christopher Reeve, and International Rescue Committee President David Miliband**. Last year’s Special Guests were prominent journalists from around the world and the **Committee to Protect Journalists**, reflecting last year’s New Year’s theme of celebrating press freedom.

“These outstanding educators are exactly the teachers we all hoped to have had in high school. They make it possible for students to see the beauty and relevance of science and math in their lives, refuting the common myth that science and math are not for everyone,” said **Mary McCormick, President of the Fund for the City of New York**. “The 77 recipients of the Sloan Awards for Excellence in Teaching Science and Mathematics are representative of the effective and innovative science and math teachers to be found throughout New York City’s high schools.”

The Fund for the City of New York was established by the Ford Foundation in 1968 with the mandate to improve the quality of life for all New Yorkers. Its Cash Flow Loan Programs lend about \$140 million a year to over 300 nonprofits in no-interest bridge financing, and its Partner Project Program supports over 80 nonprofit enterprises that focus on issues ranging from problem-solving courts, to the creation of new parks, to the reduction of asthma rates in disenfranchised communities. These and other initiatives work to achieve better outcomes for New York City's children and youth, families and communities, and the city as a whole.

A video about the Special Guests can be viewed here <https://vimeo.com/381786907>.

### **About Times Square New Year's Eve:**

The Times Square Alliance and Countdown Entertainment are the organizers of Times Square New Year's Eve. The Times Square Alliance works to improve and promote Times Square so that it retains the energy, edge, and distinctiveness that have made it an icon of entertainment, culture, and urban life. Countdown Entertainment represents the owners of One Times Square and the New Year's Eve Ball.

For more information about Times Square New Year's Eve, visit [www.TimesSquareNYC.org](http://www.TimesSquareNYC.org).

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### **CONTACT:**

Rubenstein

Kyle Sklerov (212) 843-8486, [ksklerov@rubenstein.com](mailto:ksklerov@rubenstein.com)

Kristen Bothwell (212) 843-9227, [kbothwell@rubenstein.com](mailto:kbothwell@rubenstein.com)