

A media outreach newsletter published by the Afterschool Alliance

ACTION IS KEY IF STIMULUS FUNDING IS TO BENEFIT AFTERSCHOOL PROGRAMS

On February 17, President Obama signed into law the *American Recovery and Reinvestment Act of 2009*, which provides a total of \$787 billion in spending and tax cuts to restart the economy. A number of provisions in the new law can offer direct or indirect benefits to afterschool. With some of this stimulus funding now headed to the states, it is important that afterschool advocates act locally to ensure that afterschool programs – and the children and families they serve – benefit from these dollars.

"With our economy and job markets failing, families and communities are making tough choices and cutting back in ways that were unthinkable just months ago. The stimulus funding is urgently needed, and we thank Congress and President Obama for passing it," said Afterschool Alliance Executive Director Jodi Grant. "Quality afterschool programs offer essential support to children, providing a safe place to go with supervised activities, caring adults, nutritional snacks, and opportunities to learn and train for the jobs of the future. These programs are providing stability and support to children whose families may be under enormous stress. Afterschool is a wise investment, now more than ever."

Title I

The new stimulus funds include \$13 billion in new funding for Title I. It will be distributed through state and local education agency grants. This may provide an Volume 10, Issue 2, February 26, 2009

opportunity for afterschool programs facing budget shortfalls or with grants that are ending.

In addition, many districts use the summertime to provide remedial education, which could potentially open another door for afterschool programs seeking Title I funds, the Afterschool Alliance says. Many district summer programs are short and do not include the kinds of comprehensive activities that afterschool programs offer. Establishing *Stimulus continued on page ten...*

ACT NOW!

The House of Representatives included an increase of \$50 million for 21st Century Community Learning Centers in its spending bill for Fiscal Year 2009, as well as increases for the Child Care and Development Block Grants, and Full Service Community Schools. The Senate will vote on its version by March 6. The Afterschool Alliance is urging advocates to call their Senators now

(*http://capwiz.com/afterschool/home/*) to ensure that afterschool gets this critical increase. Tell your Senators:

• Vote yes on the FYO9 Omnibus Budget Bill because it provides essential afterschool supports for working families.

• A \$50 million increase in the 21st Century Community Learning Centers Initiative will mean an additional 50,000 children have access to high quality afterschool programs.

• In these fragile economic times, afterschool is needed not only to support the current workforce but to ensure the success of the future workforce.

OUTREACH

MAKING THE CASE FOR AFTERSCHOOL DURING A RECESSION

With some funds from the federal economic stimulus bill heading to the states, this is an important time for afterschool advocates to reach out to policy makers and demonstrate the importance of afterschool in their communities.

In mid-February, Afterschool Ambassador Loras Osterhaus, 21st Century Community Learning Center Director for Clinton Community Schools in Clinton, Iowa, discussed the benefits offered by afterschool programs with lawmakers at a legislative breakfast, and testified before a state legislative committee.

Building Relationships

At the breakfast, Osterhaus was able to spend a few minutes with most of the legislators. "I had a chance to introduce myself, explain what I do and the benefits I've seen firsthand, and ask them to maintain the funding level," he said. He kept it simple and brought packets of materials to leave with each lawmaker; the materials included statistics on his program, testimonials from students and parents, and summaries of the activities his program offers.

Because the breakfast setting was more informal, there was a chance to casually discuss how afterschool is supporting communities that are struggling in the economic downturn. Osterhaus emphasized that interacting with lawmakers is "not all business. You have to build personal relationships."

Through the years, Osterhaus has built lasting relationships with lawmakers who have invested in his community. "One Representative used to teach with my wife, another is a farmer in the area, and another owns a local business... Getting to know them personally, building relationships and trust, is so important," he added.

Testifying before Legislators

Several days after the breakfast, Osterhaus testified at a state legislature hearing on afterschool, where he emphasized the benefits to children and parents. Lawmakers were impressed with his program's achievement, and he discussed the data showing that 84 percent of his students demonstrated academic improvement.

Osterhaus discussed how his program is meeting the needs of parents during the economic crisis, which is on most lawmakers' minds. "Many work before school starts and we have a program for that," he told lawmakers. "The safety and supervision of kids really resonated."

Osterhaus said the hearing on afterschool was positive, and lawmakers seemed supportive. He is optimistic that they will not cut afterschool but instead will maintain current funding levels.

For more information, tips and tools on how to reach out to policymakers, visit the Afterschool Alliance's policy page, on the website at http://www.afterschoolalliance.org/reachPolicy.cfm.

Page 3

AFTERSCHOOL FOR ALL

Afterschool for All partners total 22,450 this month. Thank you to all of the partners who are supporting afterschool in this way!

Everyone is encouraged to sign the *Afterschool for All* GroupCard to President Obama. Sign the card to let the President know why afterschool is important to you and remind him to keep his campaign promise to double funding for afterschool programs. To date, nearly 800 GroupCard signers have posted sometimes poignant, personal messages to the President. *To sign the card, go to http://www.groupcard.com/c/gN468jFPymo.*

If you already signed the *Afterschool for All* card, thank you for your support! *Please help spread the word by forwarding the link, www.groupcard.com/c/gN468jFPymo.*

The GroupCard is building buzz for afterschool on the blogosphere, including through postings on the Huffington Post, MomsRising.org and LatinaLista. *You can view the posts here: http://www.huffingtonpost.com/jodi-grant/ipeaceful-revolutioni-aft_b_163893.html; http://www.momsrising.org/content/afterschool-all; and http://www.latinalista.net/mediacasts/2009/01/afterschool_alliance_talks_with_obama_te.html.*

Please contact Marie Coichy at mcoichy@afterschoolalliance.org with any questions or comments.



FUNDING NEWS

The Afterschool Alliance's website has resources for afterschool providers, including tips for initiating relationships with funders and businesses, and for identifying funding opportunities. *To learn more, visit http://www.afterschoolalliance.org/funding.cfm.*

GRANTS/AWARDS AVAILABLE

Grants for Youth Volunteers

DoSomething.org is sponsoring the 2009 Do Something Awards, which honor community volunteers age 25 or younger. A grand prize winner will receive \$100,000 and four others will receive a minimum of \$10,000 in grants and scholarships. The application deadline is March 1. *For more information, visit www.dosomething.org/programs/awards.*

Grants for Environmental Activism

Discovery Communications, the National Science Teachers Association and the Siemens Foundation are sponsoring the Siemens We Can Change the World Challenge. Teams of two or three students, with the help of a teacher or mentor, can submit projects that identify an environmental issue in the community, research the problem and share results. Fifty-one state finalists will be chosen, along with a grand prize winner who will be awarded a \$5,000 savings bond and the opportunity to appear on Planet Green television. The deadline is March 15. *For more information, visit http://www.wecanchangetheworldchallenge.com.*

Grants for Afterschool

The Women Helping Others Foundation is sponsoring grants of up to \$5,000 for free afterschool programs, and for education and literacy programs for low-income children. Eligible programs must have a total organizational budget of \$3 million or less, total government funding of less than 30 percent of the program's income, and total United Way funding totaling less than 30 percent of the program's income. The deadline is March 17. *For more information, visit http://www.whofoundation.org/Funding/WHO_FundingEd.asp.*

Award for Youth Playwrights

VSA Arts is sponsoring the Playwright Discovery Award to recognize outstanding one-act plays for students in grades six through 12 that examine the impact of disability. Winners will receive \$2,000 and a trip to see their plays produced at the John F. Kennedy Center for the Performing Arts in Washington, DC. The deadline to apply is April 15. *For more information, go to http://www.vsarts.org/x244.xml.*

Grants for Youth Documentary Photography

The Open Society Institute is sponsoring Documentary Photography Distribution Grants, which support exhibitions of student photography that increase public awareness of social justice issues. Grants range from \$5,000 to \$30,000 each. The deadline is June 19. *For more information, visit http://www.soros.org/initiatives/photography/news/distribution2009_20081125.*



NCES SURVEY OFFERS NEW AFTERSCHOOL DATA

A new report from the federal National Center for Education Statistics (NCES) offers fresh insights into the availability of different types of afterschool programs across the nation. According to the research, more than half of the nation's public elementary schools host or operate one or more afterschool programs on their premises.

The report is based on a nationwide survey of public schools, conducted for NCES by Westat, a Maryland-based research contractor. The study, "Afterschool Programs in Public Elementary Schools," compiles data focused principally on the different types of programs available at public schools, their enrollment, and selected factors hindering their operations. The report draws no conclusions and offers no policy recommendations.

Among its findings:

- Of the estimated 49,700 public elementary schools in the nation, 56 percent reported that one or more afterschool programs were physically located at the school in 2008. Forty-six percent of all public elementary schools reported a fee-based stand-alone day care program; 43 percent reported one or more stand-alone academic instruction/tutoring programs, and ten percent reported a 21st Century Community Learning Center (21st CCLC). Respondents at 44 percent of schools indicated that no formal afterschool programs were located at the school.
- Public elementary schools reported an estimated four million enrollments in formal afterschool programs at public elementary schools (including some duplicated enrollments where students take part in more than one program). Included in that total are fee-based standalone day care programs, which together accounted for 34 percent of the total

enrollments. Stand-alone academic instruction/tutoring programs – including Supplemental Education Services programs – accounted for 39 percent of enrollments, while 21st CCLCs accounted for 11 percent.

- Of the schools that offered 21st CCLCs, 21 percent reported that the program operated less than ten hours per week, 35 percent reported that the program operated 10 to 14 hours per week, and 45 percent reported that the program operated for 15 or more hours per week.
- About two-thirds of Supplemental Education Services programs offered fewer than five hours of programming per week. By contrast, nearly 80 percent of 21st CCLCs offered at least ten hours of programming per week.
- Forty-one percent of public elementary schools with 21st CCLCs reported that their 21st CCLC provided transportation home for students; 37 percent of the schools with stand-alone academic instruction/tutoring programs reported providing transportation home; four percent of the schools with fee-based stand-alone day care reported providing transportation home. Forty-seven percent of schools with 21st CCLC programs reported that the lack of transportation limited participation by students.

The report is available online at http://nces.ed.gov/pubs2009/2009043.pdf.

TEN CITIES THINK BIG ABOUT THE FUTURE OF EDUCATION

On February 2, the Charles Stewart Mott Foundation announced grants to communities that will re-imagine how, when and where young people learn. Ten cities have been selected as *New Day for Learning* communities that will seek to demonstrate how cities and communities can expand learning opportunities for young people.

San Francisco, California, and Providence, Rhode Island, are the first demonstration sites for the initiative. Each will receive \$500,000 over three years and tailored technical assistance to broaden or leverage existing resources in businesses, communities, city departments, organizations and others to expand learning opportunities and create a seamless learning environment for all young people.

The sites will focus on strengthening and expanding the five critical elements of a *New Day for Learning*: expanding the definition of student success; using research-based knowledge about how students learn best; fostering collaboration across all sectors; integrating various learning approaches and places; and providing new opportunities for leadership and professional development.

"Each one of us plays a unique and essential role in improving outcomes for all young people," said C.S. Mott Foundation Program Officer An-Me Chung. "Particularly in this economy, it will take partnerships between schools, communities, students, parents, elected officials, educators, business leaders, and others to realize a new vision for education in America."

"The Mott Foundation's support comes at a critical time and will allow San Francisco the opportunity to further leverage the extraordinary resources in our City, bringing in businesses, city agencies, the School District, and community organizations to create comprehensive and relevant new learning environments for our youth," said San Francisco Mayor Gavin Newsom.

The other eight *New Day for Learning* Communities are: Atlanta; Charleston/North Charleston; Chicago; Denver; Flint; Omaha; Peekskill (New York); and Saint Paul (Minnesota). To learn more about the New Day for Learning Communities initiative, visit www.NewDayforLearning.org.



YOUTH PROMISE ACT INTRODUCED

On February 13, Representatives Mike Castle (R-DE) and Robert C. Bobby Scott (D-VA) introduced the Youth Prison Reduction through Opportunity Mentoring, Intervention, Support and Education (PROMISE) Act. Afterschool is mentioned throughout the bill as a promising practice and effective intervention to prevent youth violence.

The bill is designed to empower local communities to form their own councils to develop strategies to deter gang activity and other juvenile crime.

"I have long believed that the best way to reduce violence in this country is through prevention, and the Youth PROMISE Act does just that," Representative Castle said. "We must engage youth in positive ways through education, afterschool programs, sports, as well as family and community support to keep kids away from the dangers of gangs and other violent activities."

Resources would go to targeted communities to form Promise Coordinating Councils, to include representatives from law enforcement, court services, schools social service organizations, health and mental health providers and community-based organizations. These councils would conduct needs assessments and then develop plans for communities to implement. Although the legislation would not directly fund afterschool programs, councils could employ them as strategies to support youth.

To view the bill, search for H.R.1064 at http://www.thomas.gov/cgi-bin/thomas.





IN HIS OWN WORDS...

"More than 14 million children still lack adult supervision after school. President Obama has pledged to double funding for the 21st Century Community Learning Centers program – the federal government's principal after-school program investment. We urge Congress and this Committee to ensure that is a priority in the 2010 budget." -- Richland County, South Carolina, Sheriff Leon Lott, testifying before the House Budget Committee, February 12, 2009

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IN THE NEWS...

National – The National Rural Education Association honored U.S. Senator Blanche Lincoln (D-AR) with its HERO Award for her support for rural schools, including afterschool program, and her sponsorship of key legislation aimed at improving rural education. In the last Congress, Senator Lincoln introduced the Investment in After-School Programs Act, to help create and strengthen rural afterschool programs. She received the HERO Award in 2006 as well.

Arizona – Students at Flowing Wells Junior High School Skills for Success afterschool program in Tucson recently collaborated with the Challenger Space Center in Peoria to analyze hurricane and seismic data to save an island from impending natural disaster. In a virtual exchange with Mission Control at the Space Center, students not only monitored the hurricane path and volcanic eruptions, but also coordinated evacuation efforts with others on the team. The virtual exercise was based on events that took place on the island of Montserrat in 1996. In the summer, the students will participate in a simulated space mission at the Space Center.

New York – A new study commissioned by the Greater Rochester Health Foundation finds that nearly 40 percent of children in Rochester are overweight or obese. Area afterschool programs, including the Boys & Girls Club of Rochester, are using the findings to help create a healthier culture for children and youth. "We never paid attention to how overweight someone was. Now the staff is looking more closely for kids who are heavy for their height and whether they're getting involved in physically active options," Director Dwayne Mahoney told the Rochester Democrat and Chronicle. The Club now offers a healthy cooking class and has increased physical activities.

Texas – The Fort Worth Parks Department will soon begin offering anti-graffiti lessons to third, fourth and fifth graders in afterschool programs at 52 schools and 19 community centers, reports the *Fort Worth Star-Telegram*. The schools and community centers are located in "high graffiti" areas. Program organizers are also considering launching a viral video campaign and providing support for pubic murals.

Washington, DC – Three very lucky high school students spent the evening with First Lady Michelle Obama, as her guest, to view the President's address before a joint session of Congress on February 24. They were seated in First Lady's box in the balcony of the House chamber for the nationally televised address. The First Lady recently met the teens at their local afterschool program, while on a visit to a neighborhood community services agency. The Washington *Post* reports that the high school students asked her about a range of issues, from immigration reform to crime prevention. She stressed the importance of personal responsibility, "No matter what you do, you can't pass a law that makes somebody do the right thing. You can't pass a law that says treat your neighbor with respect and decency," Mrs. Obama told the students.

AFTERSCHOOL YEAR IN REVIEW

The Afterschool Alliance recently issued the 2008 Afterschool Year in Review: A Year of Diligence and Promise, a report that looks at the challenges and progress made in the field of afterschool over the past year. The economic downturn, federal, state and local funding threats, increased demand, legislation relating to afterschool, and the election are all featured in the report. Examples of challenges and successes, and opportunities for 2009 are discussed. To view the report, visit

http://www.afterschoolalliance.org/document s/2008YearInReview.pdf.

AFTERSCHOOL PROFILE:

An Afterschool Student Gives Back

The caring guidance of afterschool providers helped Houston's Edgar Gonzalez avoid trouble as a youngster, and he's been returning the favor ever since.

As a third-grader at Scroggins Elementary School in downtown Houston more than a decade ago, Gonzalez began attending afterschool regularly to avoid going home to an empty home in the afternoons, or worse, to be out on the streets. When he moved on to middle school, he began volunteering at Scroggins. "My bus stop was at Scroggins," he says. "At first, I'd go by to visit. Then they started giving me things to do to help out. It was a lot better to be there than it was to be outside. So I kept coming."

In fact, he kept on coming for many years. By the time he was a sophomore in high school, he took a part-time job with the program as a student tutor. After graduating high school, he spent a year volunteering with AmeriCorps in the Harris County Department of Education's Cooperative for After-School Enrichment (CASE) program, working with a range of afterschool programs, including Scroggins's. "I want to give these kids the chances and opportunities I had," he told the *Houston Chronicle* last year, when the newspaper wrote a profile on Gonzalez and his long-term association with afterschool.

After nearly a year with AmeriCorps, Gonzalez took a job in the human relations department of a local company, and he's now holding down a job and working toward a degree in criminal justice. But before completing his AmeriCorps stint, he gave one more bit of himself to the afterschool programs he credits for keeping him on a path to success at a critical time, by serving as a featured speaker at an October 2007 *Lights On Afterschool* leadership briefing for policymakers and the media.

Some 250 business and political leaders were at the event, at a downtown hotel. "I've never spoken in front of so many people," Gonzalez said that day. "I wanted to show that afterschool programs can be life-savers, the safest place for kids to be from 3 to 6 p.m., and that it can change kids' perspective about their future... I want to give these kids the chances and opportunities I had."

He sees his future career in criminal justice in much the same light. "I'm looking forward to finishing my degree," he says, "so I can go back and help children. That's my biggest interest – helping youth in danger, reaching out to those kids on the street who aren't getting any guidance. That's what CASE does for children, and what it did for me. It reached out to give me guidance. I'm really grateful for all they did for me. Nina Taylor at the Scroggins program got me involved, and has been a mentor to me ever since. Really all the people at Scroggins and CASE have been just great. I don't know where I'd be now if it weren't for them."



RESOURCES

Toolkit to Help Working Families

The National Women's Law Center has created a toolkit for youth workers and service providers to help working families learn about the tax credits to which they are entitled. This year, families making \$8,500 or more will be eligible for a refund through the federal Child Tax Credit. The Law Center's Tax Credit Outreach Campaign is designed to help advocates working with youth share this information with families. *More information is available at*

http://www.nwlc.org/details.cfm?id=3134&se ction=tax.

Afterschool and the Environment

The Afterschool Alliance has published a new Issue Brief, "Afterschool and the Environment: A Natural Fit." Created in partnership with T-Mobile USA, the Brief examines the intersection between environmental issues, science and afterschool enrichment and offers case studies and examples of successful programs across the country that are taking fresh approaches to incorporating environmental education via afterschool programs. The report concludes that "Afterschool programs are at the forefront of the environmental education movement. They provide innovative environmental programming that bolsters academic achievement and boosts the physical and emotional health of children. In part, this is because afterschool programs partner with community based organizations, corporations and other groups to benefit children and, communities." To see the Brief, visit

http://www.afterschoolalliance.org/issue_35_ environment.cfm.

Guide for Afterschool Training

The Afterschool Academies, part of the Charles Stewart Mott Pathways-Out-of-Poverty portfolio, are offering a new guide to help providers develop and launch their own training institutes to address the fundamentals of afterschool education. The work of the Academies presents an integrated approach to expand and enhance the educational value of afterschool by building the capacity of individuals, organizations and institutions. The Afterschool Academies Guidebook for Action provides information on how to plan trainings, and utilizes experiences from the field. The Guidebook also provides numerous tools and resources, in addition to an orientation booklet for new facilitators. For more information, visit

http://www.cnyd.org/home/documents/Aftersc hool_Academies_Guidebook_for_Action.pdf.

New Website to Support NYSAN Program Quality Self-Assessment Tool

The New York State Afterschool Network (NYSAN) has launched a new website to help afterschool providers use the organization's Quality Self-Assessment Tool. The tool is intended to help program leaders and staff, in collaboration with other stakeholders, better understand the indicators of a high-quality program and reflect on all aspects of program operation. It is built around ten essential elements of an effective afterschool program, including partnerships, linkages with schools, sustainability, staffing and more. The tool is available for free download or can be used online on the new website, at www.nysan.org/usersguide. The tool is available in English, Spanish, Russian, Haitian/Creole and Chinese.

New Briefs on Choosing, Training and Coaching Afterschool Staff

Child Trends, a nonprofit research organization focused on children's issues, has released three new issue briefs on Out-of-School Time (OST) staffing decisions. The six-page briefs offer concise and specific recommendations for afterschool providers on recruiting and choosing staff, training staff to succeed at OST programs, and providing ongoing coaching and supervision to staff to ensure continued success. *The briefs are* available for free download at http://www.childtrends.org/_listRB.cfm?LID= 4248444D-4BC4-49DB-B9CAE91EF7CCC712#Youth%20Developme nt.

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Stimulus continued from page one... partnerships with local schools could create more enrichment-oriented summer programs for low-income youth, and provide new opportunities for afterschool providers to help children and families.

State Stabilization Funding

The State Stabilization dollars authorized in the stimulus will be spent at the discretion of governors. Stabilization dollars will flow from the U.S. Department of Education to governor's offices, which will decide how they are distributed. State and local district officials need to hear from afterschool providers about the important role afterschool programs play, Grant says. The Afterschool Alliance is urging afterschool supporters to reach out to governors, their advisors and state education agencies to discuss the ways afterschool programs support working families and businesses.

State Stabilization funds can be used to support afterschool programs that applied for grants through state or federal streams, but were not funded. For example, if a program applied for a 21st Century Community Learning Center grant, and the application was deemed high quality but was not funded because there was not enough money, this may be an opportunity to seek support. Such grants may appeal to governors because the infrastructure and mechanisms are already in place to provide support, the application has been reviewed, and the money can flow quickly.

Many state afterschool networks will be working to make that case with governors. The Afterschool Alliance is encouraging providers to connect with their state networks and other allies to promote the spending of stabilization dollars on afterschool.

Child Care and Development Block Grants

Of the \$2 billion included in the stimulus package for Child Care and Development Block Grants (CCDBG), about one-third will be used to support children in afterschool programs. State officials may need to take action if regulatory changes are needed to allow certain expenditures.

The Afterschool Alliance anticipates that CCDBG dollars will move quickly. For this reason, it recommends that afterschool providers contact friendly legislators and state administrators to urge them to use these funds to keep programs open, expand them to serve children now on waiting lists, and in other ways support afterschool programs.

Youth Training and Employment Services

Of the \$3.95 billion provided by the stimulus for the Workforce Investment Act state formula grants for adult, dislocated worker, and youth job training programs, \$1.2 billion is designated for youth services. The bill specifically mentions creating summer employment opportunities for youth.

The Afterschool Alliance is urging advocates to contact local Workforce Investment Boards, in addition to local youth councils, to inquire about new funding opportunities and specifically opportunities geared toward summer job placements for older youth. Providers could use this funding, for example, to run a program that teaches computer skills to older youth who are subsequently placed as computer help specialists at local libraries.

AmeriCorps

The \$160 million for additional AmeriCorps and AmeriCorps VISTA members can help afterschool programs provide service learning opportunities for older youth. For example, many afterschool programs partner with AmeriCorps to help high school students get involved in service

Afterschool Advocate

learning programs or tutoring. A larger set of AmeriCorps members may mean that additional resources are available to help struggling afterschool programs.

Online Clearinghouse on Afterschool and the Economic Recovery

"State and local agencies may have started to – or already developed – plans to use the new stimulus funds," Grant said. "It is critical that afterschool supporters find out all they can about those plans and make the case now for how and why they should target funds to afterschool programs, which can use the money quickly to help children and families."

The Afterschool Alliance has a new interactive page on its website that delivers the most up-to-date news and information to advocates on afterschool and the economic recovery package. It also includes information on how advocates can get involved and how providers can access new and existing funding streams, as well as stateby-state data, talking points and other information. *To learn more, visit http://www.afterschoolalliance.org/policyEco nRecovery.cfm*.

The Afterschool Alliance has created an Afterschool Wiki, modeled after the online "encyclopedia" *Wikipedia.com*, where up-to-the-minute news and information is exchanged on the latest afterschool funding news. This page allows visitors to comment and edit sections as well. *It is available at http://www.afterschoolwiki.org*.

To thank Members of Congress and Senators who voted for the stimulus bill, and see a sample thank you note, please visit *http://capwiz.com/afterschool/home/*.

MARK YOUR CALENDARS...

March 1 - 4, 2009

Georgia Southern University will host the National Youth At-Risk 2009 Conference in

Savannah, Georgia. The Conference will address academic achievement and school leadership; social and emotional skills; safety and violence prevention; mental and physical health; and family and community. Pre-Conference workshops include sessions on youth relationships and girls' empowerment. For more information, visit http://ceps.georgiasouthern.edu/conted/nation alyouthatrisk.html.

March 18 - 20, 2009

Kids Included Together will host its 5th annual National Conference on Inclusion in San Diego, California. The conference will feature new techniques from leaders in the field for including children with and without disabilities in afterschool programs. The Keynote speaker is April Holmes. *For more information, visit www.kitconference.org.*

April 2 - 4, 2009

The National AfterSchool Association will convene thousands of afterschool professionals and stakeholders at the 2009 National AfterSchool Association Convention at the Morial Convention Center in New Orleans, Louisiana. It is one of the largest Conventions in the afterschool profession, and a way to meet with fellow afterschool professionals from across the country. *For more information, visit http://www.naaconvention.org/.*

April 16 - 17, 2009

The National Center for Summer Learning will sponsor the 2009 'Summer Changes Everything' National Conference at the Hyatt Regency Chicago in Illinois. Participants will learn how to build, strengthen and expand summer programs at the only national conference dedicated to summer learning. *For more information, visit http://www.summerlearning.org/.*

April 22 - 25, 2009

BOOST will sponsor the 2009 Best Out-of-School Time Conference at the Palm Springs

Afterschool Advocate

Convention Center in California. This Conference will offer networking and teambuilding opportunities, workshops, information on the latest trends and research in out-of-school time programming, more than 100 exhibits, guest speakers, special events and entertainment. *For more information, visit http://www.boostconference.org/.*

April 27 – April 28, 2009

The Afterschool Alliance will host the *Afterschool for All Challenge* in Washington, DC. The event will include two days of workshops, speakers, advocacy opportunities and fun for hundreds of afterschool providers and leaders from around the country and some of the parents and children they serve. *For more information, visit www.afterschoolalliance.org.*

April 29 – May 1, 2009

NC CAP in North Carolina will sponsor the fifth annual SYNERGY Conference, designed to bring together a broad spectrum of community and school-based afterschool providers for training, networking and sharing effective practices. *For more information*, *visit www.nccap.net*.

May 26 – May 29, 2009

Nova Southeastern University, Council of Canadian Child and Youth Care Associations (CCCYCA), and the Association for the Child & Youth Care Practice Inc. are presenting the Ninth Triennial International Child and Youth Care Conference in Fort Lauderdale, Florida. The keynote speaker will be Dr. Andrew Munoz, Ph.D., Vice President and Center Director of the Academy for Educational Development's Center for Youth Development. More than 1,500 youth workers will convene from more than 100 nations. The theme is "Global Warning," and Dr. Munoz will discuss innovative afterschool initiatives around the world. There will be more than 150 sessions on trends, advocacy, program design, and ways to engage families and communities in youth development. *For more information, visit www.icycc2009.com.*

🖋 July 13 – 16, 2009

The National Institute for Out-of-School Time will sponsor its annual summer seminar series providing training for afterschool professionals, in Boston, Massachusetts. Seminar topics will include program evaluation, the changing landscape of out-ofschool time, system and community building, technical assistance and more. *For more information, visit www.NIOST.org.*

POSTPONED Until Fall 2009(Previously Set For March 12 - 13, 2009)

The Cooperative for After-School Enrichment (CASE) will sponsor Out-of-School Time for High School: Focus on Practice, in Houston, Texas at the Harris County Department of Education Conference Center. The Conference will include sessions led by high school youth. *For more information, visit http://www.osths.org/.*

*** And mark your calendars now for Lights On Afterschool 2009 on October 22, 2009! ***

The Afterschool Alliance is a nonprofit public awareness and advocacy organization working to ensure that all children and youth have access to quality afterschool programs. More information is available at *www.afterschoolalliance.org*. The Alliance is proud to count among its founding partners the Mott Foundation, U.S. Department of Education, JCPenney Afterschool Fund, Open Society Institute/The After-School Corporation, the Entertainment Industry Foundation and the Creative Artists Agency Foundation. ******

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