



ALLIANCE TO RELEASE 'ROADMAP' AT AFTERSCHOOL FOR ALL CHALLENGE

U.S. Secretary of Education Arne Duncan, Chicago's Maggie Daley and Judge Glenda Hatchett will join parents, children, educators and policy makers from around the country on April 27 and 28 to discuss ways to ensure that all children and families have access to quality afterschool programs. Organized by the Afterschool Alliance, the *Afterschool for All Challenge* will give people the chance to tell lawmakers about their support for the afterschool programs that keep kids safe, inspire them to learn and help working families.

On April 27, participants will attend sessions that address various aspects of afterschool, including:

- Afterschool's Role in Raising Healthy Children
- Afterschool, the *American Recovery and Reinvestment Act*, and More
- Afterschool Programs and Workforce Development
- Science, Technology, Engineering and Math (STEM) in Afterschool
- New Day for Learning: Taking Afterschool to the Next Level

Roadmap

The Afterschool Alliance will also release the first-ever *Roadmap to Afterschool for All*. The *Roadmap* examines the current levels of public and private investments in afterschool programs and provides recommendations addressing funding and legislative action needed to achieve afterschool for all.

"At this time of tremendous economic stress, America needs many more quality afterschool programs so that our kids are safe and supervised after the school day ends," said Afterschool Alliance Executive Director Jodi Grant. "The *No Child Left Behind Act* authorized slow, steady increases for the 21st Century Community Learning Centers initiative, but right now we are far below the \$2.5 billion authorized for this year."

"Our *Roadmap* demonstrates just how far we are from making sure every child who needs a quality afterschool program has access to one," Grant continued. "Reaching that goal will require increased contributions from all levels of government and the business and charitable communities. We are looking to the federal government to lead the way."

Challenge continued on page eight...

TAKE THE AFTERSCHOOL PROGRAM SURVEY!

The Afterschool Alliance is encouraging program directors across the country to log on and take a vitally important new survey that assesses how afterschool programs are faring in today's economy. It takes just 15 to 20 minutes to complete, and includes questions about enrollment, student demographics, budget and funding. Some questions require respondents to know demographic ratios and funding breakdowns by percentage. *If you are a program director or coordinator, please log on and take the survey at*

http://www.surveymonkey.com/s.aspx?sm=JzBj_2bILvXWwihj46Z0_2fo0Q_3d_3d

OUTREACH

There are many ways for afterschool advocates to generate news coverage about the struggle afterschool programs face during these tough economic times when states and local governments, corporations, philanthropies and individual donors are cutting budgets. Following are ideas for getting out your message about afterschool. Keying off the *Afterschool for All Challenge* on April 27 and 28, advocates can frame the need for more afterschool funding as part of the national agenda for youth.

The Afterschool Alliance website (www.afterschoolalliance.org) has helpful tips on simple, effective ways to reach out to media and lawmakers, such as:

- Send a Letter to the Editor of Your Local Newspaper(s)
- Pitch Yourself to a Local Radio Talk Show
- Write an Opinion Article for Your Local Newspaper
- Look for a Local Cable Television Interview Opportunity
- Talk with the Editorial Writer(s) of Your Local Newspaper
- Post on Your School District's or Another Blog

Messages That Work

The Afterschool Alliance recommends the following messages with the media:

- Afterschool programs keep kids safe, inspire them to learn and help working families.
- Research from the Afterschool Alliance shows that 14.3 million K-12 youth are unsupervised in the afternoons. In working families – those where both parents or a single parent hold a job – nearly one in three children are looking after themselves.
- Just 6.5 million children are in afterschool programs – but the parents of another 15.3 million children say their children would participate if an afterschool program were available.
- America needs more afterschool programs. The No Child Left Behind Act authorized slow, steady increases for the 21st Century Community Learning Centers initiative – the principal federal funding stream for afterschool – with annual authorizations reaching \$2.5 billion. Only in the last two years did afterschool get a funding increase, to about \$1.1 billion – much less than half of what No Child Left Behind authorized.
- Our children deserve safe, enriching activities after school. We need Congress to invest in afterschool programs.

AFTERSCHOOL FOR ALL

Next week, hundreds of afterschool leaders, parents and youth will come to Washington, D.C. for the 8th annual *Afterschool for All Challenge*. Representing communities around the nation, they will let lawmakers know the difference that afterschool programs have made in their lives. Even if you can't join us in D.C., you can still add your voice to this important event by becoming a partner of *Afterschool for All*. If you are already a partner, take a moment to invite your friends, colleagues and family members to join this effort for youth and families. *You can download a sample email invitation from our "Partner Tools" at www.afterschoolalliance.org/a4aPartnerSampleEmail.cfm. It takes less than a minute to sign up online at www.afterschoolalliance.org/a4aJoin.cfm.*

Already, more than 23,000 individuals and organizations have pledged their support for afterschool. Help make their voices stronger by becoming a partner of *Afterschool for All*. Do you have questions or comments about *Afterschool for All*? If so, contact Marie Coichy at mcoichy@afterschoolalliance.org or call: 646/943-8662.

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 Teachers

The ING Unsung Heroes Awards Program is sponsoring grants for teachers utilizing innovative classroom projects within their school or school system. One hundred finalists will each receive \$2,000. The top winner will receive \$25,000, the second place winner \$10,000 and the third place winner \$5,000. The award is administered by Scholarship America. The deadline to apply is April 30. *For information, visit <http://ing-usa.com/us/aboutING/CorporateCitizenship/Education/INGUnsungHeroes/index.htm>.*

Grants for Youth Volunteers

The National Geographic Education Foundation, Girl Scouts of America, National Youth Leadership Council and others are sponsoring the Gloria Baron Prize for Young Heroes. Ten grants of \$2,500 are available for youth who have made a difference in their communities through service or humanitarian projects. The grants may be used to fund their projects or to pay for college. The deadline is April 30. *For more information, visit <http://www.barronprize.org>.*

Grants for Nonprofits

Build-A-Bear Workshop is sponsoring grants of up to \$10,000 for nonprofit organizations that can show measurable outcomes for children in the areas of health and wellness, safety and special needs. The deadline is April 30. *For more information, visit <http://www.buildabear.com/aboutus/community/bearhugs.aspx>.*

Grants for Youth Volunteers

Habitat for Humanity is sponsoring grants of \$10,000 for Youth United Urban Groups to build houses in their communities. Made up of young people ages five to 25, Youth United groups are expected to raise at least 70 percent of the cost of a house sponsorship and build the house with their local affiliate. Five grants will be awarded, and groups that received grants in 2008-2009 can reapply for one of three \$4,000 follow-up grants. *The deadline is May 15. For more information, visit http://www.habitat.org/youthprograms/suppdocs/yu_matchinggrants.pdf.*

Grants for Disability Projects

The Mitsubishi Electric America Foundation is sponsoring grants for projects that provide education, recreational activities or job opportunities to youth with disabilities. Preference will be given to projects that include young people with and without disabilities. The deadline is June 1. *For more information, visit <http://www.meaf.org/grants.php>.*



SENATORS SUPPORT AFTERSCHOOL

The United States Senate has approved an amendment to the Fiscal Year 2010 budget resolution that calls for a reserve fund of up to \$2.5 billion for 21st Century Community Learning Centers (21st CCLC), the chief federal funding stream for afterschool programs. Senators Barbara Boxer (D-CA) and John Ensign (R-NV) sponsored the bipartisan amendment.

Its purpose is to encourage appropriators to set aside up to this amount for afterschool programs in the 2010 budget. Funding at \$2.5 billion would provide 2.5 million children with access to afterschool.

The *No Child Left Behind Act* authorized afterschool funding at \$2.5 billion, but Congress has never appropriated even half that. The fiscal year 2009 budget includes \$1.13 billion for 21st CCLC.

“As one of the authors of this successful program, I am so pleased that we are on our way toward keeping more children safe, reducing crime and drug use, and improving academic performance,” Senator Boxer said. “And by making this a priority in our budget, we are making clear that the education and safety of our children is paramount.”

“This is a symbolic but meaningful victory,” said Afterschool Alliance Executive Director Jodi Grant. “The overwhelming 89 – 9 vote puts the full Senate on record as recognizing that we need a major increase in federal funding for quality afterschool programs. But we still have a lot of work to do to get Congress to appropriate these funds, so that fewer children will be unsupervised and at risk in the afternoons.”

To contact lawmakers to encourage greater support for quality afterschool programs, please visit
<http://capwiz.com/afterschool/home/>.



POLL: NJ RESIDENTS STRONGLY SUPPORT AFTERSCHOOL

A statewide poll conducted in February and released this month finds that nine in ten New Jersey residents say access to afterschool programs is important, and more than two-thirds say it is “very important” for school-age children to have safe, structured and affordable afterschool programs. Conducted by Monmouth University Polling Institute, it is the first statewide poll to gauge public opinion about afterschool programs.

“New Jersey residents see the added value that afterschool programs bring to the state – they recognize that programs, like those within the New Jersey After 3 network, help keep kids safe, support working families, promote positive youth development, have a significant impact on students’ learning, and can ultimately save taxpayers billions,” New Jersey After 3 President Mark Valli said. “We hope that these results will resonate with business leaders and policy makers throughout the state to help support the growing need for more afterschool programs.”

“We hope that other business leaders will follow our example and invest in the field of afterschool,” Douglas Kennedy, president of Capital One Bank’s New Jersey Division. “These programs are critical to workforce development in New Jersey and serve as an essential support to hard-working families throughout the state.”

According to New Jersey After 3, only 12 percent of the state’s 1.5 million school-aged children have access to afterschool programs.

To see the complete poll results, visit
[http://www.njafter3.org/downloads/NJ%20After%203%20Survey%20Report%202%2008%20\(2\).pdf](http://www.njafter3.org/downloads/NJ%20After%203%20Survey%20Report%202%2008%20(2).pdf)



COMING TO A COMPUTER NEAR YOU – IT’S ASA RADIO!

The Afterschool Alliance is proud to announce a new radio show dedicated to exploring all aspects of afterschool programs. Hosted by Afterschool Alliance Executive Director Jodi Grant, ASA (Afterschool Alliance) Radio is a quarterly program that will feature interviews with leading experts and advocates in the afterschool movement.

Grant’s first guest will be Judge Glenda Hatchett, star of TV’s “Judge Hatchett.” She is a longtime friend of the Afterschool Alliance, a tireless advocate for afterschool, and the Mistress of Ceremonies for the 2009 “Breakfast of Champions.”

Be sure to listen beginning Friday, April 24 at www.afterschoolalliance.org.

ASA Radio is produced in conjunction with the BAM Radio Network.



CAMPAIGN FOR QUALITY

The California Afterschool Network has launched a Campaign for Quality to help afterschool practitioners continuously improve their programs. The Network is offering research-based promising practices, using the indicators in the California After School Program Quality Self Assessment Tool (QSA). Monthly tips will be available on the Network’s website and in its newsletter.

The QSA tool is a constantly evolving survey for staff members to evaluate all aspects of their afterschool programs, and to prioritize and plan necessary improvements. Although the Network is encouraging California-based programs to use the tool to comply with state Department of Education standards, the nine part survey can be used to evaluate programs in any state.

To use the QSA tool or offer input for its next revision, visit <http://www.afterschoolnetwork.org/qsatool>.



AFTERSCHOOL CAN CONTRIBUTE TO A BETTER WORKFORCE

A new MetLife-Afterschool Alliance Issue Brief, “Afterschool: Opening Doors to Work and Careers,” explores how afterschool programs are preparing youth for the 21st Century workforce. It is one in a series of Issue Briefs sponsored by the MetLife Foundation that addresses the benefits afterschool programs provide to older youth, families and communities.

The new brief finds that afterschool programs can help older youth foster the skills needed to keep up with the increasingly competitive global workforce and find jobs in these uncertain economic times. By partnering with community members and other organizations, afterschool programs can provide internships, job shadowing, mentoring, on-the-job training, and other real-world educational opportunities.

“Afterschool programs provide benefits to older youth that reach well beyond the school day, offering avenues to college and the workplace by exposing youth to global issues, providing opportunities to develop and use technology, promoting cross-cultural understanding, collaborative thinking, leadership and civic participation,” the Brief says.

The Issue Brief offers several examples of afterschool programs that are helping youth gain valuable employment skills. *To view it, go to http://www.afterschoolalliance.org/issue_briefs/Workforce%20Brief%2036%20FINAL.pdf.*



IN THE NEWS...

California – Students in the THINK Together afterschool program set a new Guinness World Record by creating the world's longest penny chain, spanning 65 miles around the Auto Club Speedway in Fontana. Beginning in February, the "Miles of Change" program collected more than 14 million pennies, considerably more than its original goal of eight million, the *Orange County Register* reports. The objective had been to lay 100 miles of the coins with Abraham Lincoln's face on them to mark the 100th anniversary of the Lincoln penny and the 200th anniversary of the President's birth. The money collected will help fund the afterschool program, which serves 35,000 students at more than 200 school and community centers throughout Los Angeles, Orange, Riverside and San Bernardino Counties. *To learn about THINK Together and the Miles of Change program, visit <http://thinktogether.org>.*

Kansas – Afterschool students at Northview Elementary School in Manhattan got a lesson in military robots and combat safety when the 162nd Explosive Ordnance Disposal Company from Fort Riley paid them a visit. Soldiers brought several kinds of robots, including Talon robots similar to those used for search and recovery after the September 11th attacks. They also answered questions from students. "Northview Elementary has the largest population of children from military families in Manhattan," said Sue Mountford, the program's coordinator. "Events like this are so important to building community relations and besides that, the demonstrations were very cool!"

Maine – The Museum L-A in Lewiston will turn afterschool students into detectives as they learn about jobs held by children under age 15 in the industrial era. Students will use old city maps to find where jobs might have been available in Lewiston and Auburn. They will also learn about the job requirements and

hazards, and compare them to jobs available today. This program is an extension of the popular "Long Hours, Low Pay" program the museum held in February. "We need to continue investigating because the students in the earlier program were so amazed at what they were discovering," Museum L-A Educator Annette Vance Dorey told the *Sun Journal*.

Massachusetts – The real-life inspiration for the 2003 Jack Black movie, "School of Rock," is going on tour, and taking along guest professor Brendon Small of the death metal band, Dethklok. Paul Green's School of Rock is a year-round afterschool program that trains students to be musicians and then puts their bands on stage to perform. The All Stars, a select group of students chosen every year, take their show on the road. "The weirdest thing happens when you see these kids play," Small told the *Boston Herald* before a show in Foxboro. "They're playing their (butts) off and you get so excited. If people go to this show, they're not going to be talking about me, they're going to be talking about how great these kids are." *To see the All Stars tour schedule, visit <http://www.schoolofrock.com>.*

Nebraska – The city of Lincoln was transformed into an urban solar system by an afterschool astronomy club at the Air Park Neighborhood Center. Students asked businesses to represent the planets and the moon based on how far they are from the center of town, which represented the "sun." The idea was to create a model that would show how far apart the pieces of the solar system really are. Once the project was complete, club members were honored for their work. "It's a good way to get kids involved – not only in learning but also as a team," Libby Raetz, director of emergency services at Saint Elizabeth Regional Medical Center, which represents Uranus, told the *Lincoln Journal Star*.

New Mexico – New Mexico State University football players have been spending time with local elementary school students in keeping with Coach DeWayne Walker’s philosophy that the team should support the community that supports them. The team has put in more than 500 hours of volunteer time since January, most with afterschool students at Sonoma and Alameda Elementary Schools. “We are really happy to have the Aggies at our afterschool program,” Alameda Elementary counselor Mary Meier said. “There are so few positive role models for our kids, and these players have come into their lives at just the right time.” Running back Marquell Colston said, “I love going to the schools and interacting with them. They look up to us and we need to be there for them... Making their day makes my day.”

New York – Governor David A. Paterson and the state legislature approved a budget that will increase funding for The Advantage After School Program, providing the largest allocation of funds in the program’s ten-year history. The comprehensive, daily afterschool program serves nearly 24,000 students across New York. “Our leaders faced many difficult decisions in allocating next year’s budget, but they put the needs of working families first by investing in high quality daily afterschool programs that help parents keep their jobs,” said Lucy N. Friedman, president of The After-School Corporation. Other youth development programs like the Extended Day/Violence Prevention Program and the Youth Development and Delinquency Program will see their funds cut, although not by as much as originally expected.

Rhode Island – Five years after the successful launch of a middle school program, the Providence After School Alliance (PASA) is starting a network of afterschool activities for high school students. Providence Hub will be an interactive website that provides information about existing activities around town, like art classes, summer jobs, and

health screenings. A free trolley and bicycles at various locations will help students get to their destinations, and The Hub also will be accessible from automated kiosks in the city’s transportation center, Kennedy Plaza. According to the *Providence Journal-Bulletin*, PASA chose ten high school students to help design the program, who then interviewed 1,300 young people to find out what would be most effective. The middle school version is already used by 1,800 students.

Utah – Following a number of incidents of gang violence involving youth, state and local leaders are looking for ways to reach out to at-risk children and their parents, the *Salt Lake Tribune* reports. Faith-based initiatives are responding to the outbreak by providing alternatives for youth. The Free Wesleyan Church of Tonga in Salt Lake City has started an afterschool program to keep youth from its congregation off the street, while also providing homework help. Other churches have had former gang members speak to their congregations, and several parent-education programs are in place. Utah is holding its 19th Annual Gang Conference this month and leaders hope to come up with more ways to stop the violence.



RESOURCE

Benefits of Afterschool for Older Youth

The American Youth Policy Forum recently released *Learning Around the Clock: Benefits of Expanded Learning Opportunities for Older Youth*. The new publication identifies and describes out-of-school time opportunities that improve academic performance, college and career preparation, social and emotional development, and health and wellness outcomes for underserved youth. *Learning Around the Clock* is designed to help national, state, and local policy makers

and practitioners better understand the wide-array of benefits afterschool provides. The guide also profiles 22 programs. *To view it, visit www.aypf.org/publications.*



A DATABASE OF PLAY SPACE

KaBOOM!, a national nonprofit that empowers communities to build playgrounds, is on a mission to locate 100,000 play spaces in 100 days. To expand its online play space locator, the organization is asking parents and community members to help discover local playgrounds, skate parks and field complexes. Through interactive Google maps and Twitter (a social messaging and networking website), individuals can submit the location of a play space, with pictures taken, on camera phones.

The result will be a virtual database of maps and pictures that KaBOOM hopes will help community leaders assess the number and quality of play places for youth, *USA Today* reports. Also, for every play space entered, \$1 will be donated to one of six nonprofits, including YMCA of the USA, Jump Start and America's Promise Alliance, in name of "Dancing with the Stars" winner Julianne Hough.

The campaign will run through June 30, or until 100,000 new play spaces have been contributed. *To share your play space or to find one near you, visit <http://playspacefinder.kaboom.org/contests/1-100000-playspaces-in-100-days>.*



Challenge continued from page one...

Breakfast of Champions

On Tuesday, April 28, *Challenge* participants will attend a "Breakfast of Champions" with Secretary Duncan, Judge Hatchett and Members of Congress.

At the "Breakfast," the Afterschool Alliance will honor Chicago's Maggie Daley

for her extraordinary work in providing quality afterschool programs to Chicago's older youth. Daley will receive the "Afterschool for All" champion award for her national leadership, as well as her work in Chicago. Eight other individuals from around the country will be honored as state afterschool champions for their tireless work on behalf of afterschool programs. The honorees are from California, Georgia, Illinois, Kentucky, Maryland, Michigan, New York and two are from Ohio.

Youth Participants

Youth from across the country will attend the *Afterschool for All Challenge* as well. Gregory Quintero of Bakersfield, California will represent the Bakersfield Police Activities League, of which he is a member. On Monday, he will participate in a special youth leadership training to prepare to meet with Members of Congress. On Tuesday, he will speak at the "Breakfast of Champions," and meet with his Members of Congress. Bright House Networks is sponsoring his trip.

"I've been attending the Police Activities League program since I was seven or eight," said Quintero, who is now 17 years old. "It's kept me out of trouble and given me the opportunity to see my friends and bond with the cops who work with the program. Programs like the PAL are important because they offer academic help and give kids fun and productive things to do, like soccer, basketball and baseball. I'm very grateful that Bright House Networks has given me the opportunity to meet and talk to my national legislators about all that afterschool programs do for me and for kids around the country."

The Afterschool Alliance is grateful to the following sponsors of this year's event: Abbott, United States Tennis Association, Bright House Networks, Marriott, Inc., Open Society Institute, NAMM, National Association of Chain Drug Stores, Cable in the Classroom, National Afterschool Association, National League of Cities, and Foundations, Inc. *To learn more about the*

Challenge, and to view tips on how to participate from home, visit <http://www.afterschoolalliance.org/challenge.cfm>.



MARK YOUR CALENDARS...

April 27 – April 28, 2009

The Afterschool Alliance will host the *Afterschool for All Challenge* in Washington, D.C. 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, the Council of Canadian Child and Youth Care Associations, and the Association for the Child & Youth Care Practice Inc. will present the Ninth Triennial International Child and Youth Care Conference in Fort Lauderdale, Florida. 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 7 – July 9, 2009

The U.S. Department of Education and the Charles Stewart Mott Foundation, in conjunction with the JCPenney Afterschool Fund, will host the 21st Century Community Learning Centers’ (CCLC) 2009 Summer Institute in Nashville, Tennessee. This year’s theme, “The 21st CCLC Program: Realizing America’s New Education Promise,” captures the direction of the initiative as programs strive to develop afterschool activities that include and support the President’s education goals and initiatives. The agenda will engage participants in several general sessions that will focus on the President’s new education agenda as well as to provide technical assistance for the overall management of 21st CCLC programs from a daily operational perspective. *For more information, visit <http://www.sei2003.com/21stcentury/welcome.aspx>.*

July 13 – 16, 2009

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

October 22, 2009

The Afterschool Alliance will sponsor the 10th annual *Lights On Afterschool*, raising awareness about the benefits of afterschool through thousands of creative and exciting youth-oriented events at afterschool programs across the country. *For more information, visit <http://www.afterschoolalliance.org/loa.cfm>.*

 **November 3 - 5, 2009**

The California Afterschool Network will host the first annual STEP UP - High School Summit in San Diego, California.

Afterschool professionals, staff, and high school administrators will gather to discuss ideas and promising practices for high school afterschool programs. *For more information on submitting a proposal, visit http://www.afterschoolnetwork.org/step_up_rfp. For more information on the summit, visit www.afterschoolnetwork.org/node/7057.*



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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