



## AFTERSCHOOL COMES TO CAPITOL HILL AS LAWMAKERS CUT AFTERSCHOOL FUNDING BY \$12.3 MILLION

The 10<sup>th</sup> annual [Afterschool for All Challenge](#) last week was highly successful, marked by pledges of support from lawmakers, messages about unmet need from passionate advocates, insights from afterschool youth, wisdom from experts speaking at stimulating workshops, a powerful push for innovation, and much more. The [two-day affair](#) brought hundreds of afterschool supporters of all ages from across the country to the nation's capital to confer, exchange ideas, and share their experiences with lawmakers during this critical moment for afterschool policy and funding.

The "Breakfast of Champions," a Capitol Hill event honoring afterschool supporters, took place just as the final FY2011 funding levels were confirmed. To the grave disappointment of the afterschool community, policymakers cut 21<sup>st</sup> Century Community Learning Centers (21<sup>st</sup> CCLC), the chief federal funding stream supporting before school, afterschool and summer learning programs, by \$12.3 million for the current fiscal year. The cut will result in an estimated 12,300 children losing their programs.

"Leave our funding alone," Senator Barbara Boxer (CA), chair of the Senate Afterschool Caucus, told the crowd at the "Breakfast of Champions" on May 17. "When something is working like this, we ought to continue it... Yes, we have other needs. But if [Congress] suddenly opens up the bill to other ideas and doesn't add funding, what's going to happen is kids will

get knocked out of the program," she said. "There is no reason why we should have one child in America who is home alone, who gets in trouble, who joins a gang, because we didn't have the courage to support them."

Senator Sheldon Whitehouse (RI) told the audience about his background as a former attorney general, which made him aware of the important role afterschool programs play in the lives of young people. "We started the Providence AfterSchool Alliance (PASA). It has been remarkable. I learned when you deal with kids who don't have a lot of experience in the world, a little bit of broadening that experience can make a world of difference. There is no better place than PASA and I look to that example as we work on education reform."

Also from Rhode Island, Rep. David Cicilline, who is a board member with the Afterschool Alliance and longtime afterschool champion, agreed: "Afterschool is an absolute necessity, ensuring that kids grow up to be healthy adults with the skills to compete in this century. That they realize their full potential, learn the wonders of music and art, and, of course, science; afterschool does all of these things."

This year's *Afterschool for All Challenge* highlighted the importance of science, technology, engineering and math (STEM) learning, in recognition of 2011 being the Year of Science in Afterschool. Senator Jean Shaheen (NH) recognized *FIRST*® founder Dean Kamen as the national "Afterschool for All" Champion. [For more on Kamen, read [Dean Kamen, Founder Of FIRST®, Inventor Of Segway®, Honored As Afterschool Champion](#) in this issue.] "I am especially excited about the theme of this year's Challenge *continued on page thirteen...*

## OUTREACH

### Keep Up the Drumbeat After the *Afterschool for All Challenge*

Whether you traveled to Washington D.C. for the 10<sup>th</sup> annual *Afterschool for All Challenge* or participated from home, there are many ways to keep spreading the message about the importance of afterschool – and to generate news coverage about the challenges afterschool programs face, particularly during the current wave of budget cuts and funding shortfalls most programs are experiencing.

Following are ideas, along with some how-to information, for getting out your messages about afterschool. At a minimum, consider sending out a news release and/or a letter-to-the-editor about your visit to Washington, D.C. or the *Challenge* event you hosted from home. Visit the Afterschool Alliance's website for [tips](#). Other ideas to spread the news include:

- Send a letter-to-the-editor of your local newspaper(s);
- Send a news release about your trip to Washington, D.C. or your at-home *Challenge* activity;
- Pitch yourself to a local radio talk show;
- Write an opinion article (op-ed) for your local newspaper;
- Look for a local cable television interview opportunity;
- Talk with the relevant editorial writer(s) at your local newspaper; and
- Write a blog post on your trip or your at-home *Challenge* activity for your school district's or another blog.

### Messages That Work

The Afterschool Alliance recommends using the following messages with the media:

- Afterschool programs keep kids safe, inspire them to learn and help working families.
- Research from the Afterschool Alliance, sponsored by jpenney and released in 2009, found that 15.1 million K-12 children are unsupervised in the afternoons. That includes 3.7 million middle school students and 1.1 million elementary school children. By contrast, just 8.4 million children are in afterschool programs, while the parents of another 18.5 million children say their children would participate if an afterschool program were available.
- The economic downturn has taken a harsh toll on afterschool programs, with many cutting back hours and some forced to close altogether.
- The President's budget proposal for Fiscal Year 2012 would increase funding for the 21<sup>st</sup> Century Community Learning Centers initiative (21<sup>st</sup> CCLC) by \$100 million, which would help provide afterschool for another 100,000 children across the nation. He has also requested an additional \$1.3 billion for the Child Care Development Fund (CCDF), about a third of which would be used to provide services for school-age children. His proposals for 21<sup>st</sup> CCLC and CCDF deserve support.

- In addition to the budget, Congress is expected to take up reauthorization of the *Elementary and Secondary Education Act* (formerly the *No Child Left Behind Act*). When it does, it should make sure that 21<sup>st</sup> CCLC funds are used to support quality afterschool, before-school and summer learning programs that enhance and complement the school day through engaging, hands-on, experiential learning activities. The bill should also build on strong partnerships between schools and community-based organizations, and ensure that any changes to 21<sup>st</sup> CCLC do not reduce the number of children or communities served. The legislation should maintain the current formula for grants to states that then distribute funds to local communities.
- Afterschool programs are about the future. Science, Technology, Engineering and Math (STEM) programs offered after school and during the summer are getting young people excited about studying these important fields. The hands-on, experiential learning that is a trademark of afterschool programs lends itself naturally to the scientific method and STEM subjects. In an era of global competitiveness, STEM afterschool offers an exciting way to ensure we have the workforce we need tomorrow.
- America needs more afterschool programs. We need lawmakers, businesses and foundations to come together to ensure that afterschool programs get the funding they need to serve our children and our communities.



## 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, click [here](#).*

### GRANTS/AWARDS AVAILABLE

#### Scholarships for College-Bound Students

The Center for Student Opportunity (CSO) is sponsoring a four-year, \$2,000 renewable scholarship for first-generation college students who were involved in extracurricular and leadership programs in their schools or communities. High school students from the class of 2011 who are attending one of [CSO's partner colleges or universities](#) are eligible to apply. Winners will serve as monthly guest bloggers on the [Opportunity Scholars web blog](#). The deadline is May 27. *For more information, click [here](#).*

#### Grants for Reducing Youth Violence

The Centers for Disease Control is sponsoring [STRYVE](#) grants that will provide support to local public health departments to work with other sectors in their communities to stop youth violence before it starts. Through the use of STRYVE tools, training and technical assistance, local public health departments can engage multi-sector coalitions in the strategic planning and development of comprehensive youth violence prevention plans and implement selected youth violence prevention programs, policies and practices based on the best available evidence. The deadline for applications is June 13. *For more information, click [here](#).*

#### Grants for Literacy or Health and Wellness Programs

Build-a-Bear Workshops' Bear Hugs Foundation is sponsoring grants from \$1,000 to \$10,000 for programs that support child literacy, including summer reading programs and literacy programs for children with special needs. The organization is also sponsoring grants for programs that directly support children in the areas of health and wellness. Individuals and nonprofits in the United States and Canada are eligible to apply. The deadline is October 28. *For more information, click [here](#).*



## **STEM TAKES ROOT AT AFTERSCHOOL FOR ALL CHALLENGE**

An astronaut. A corporate executive. A dinosaur hunter. A policy specialist for the White House. All have a deep interest in expanding science, technology, engineering and math (STEM) education in afterschool and all were on hand at the [Afterschool for All Challenge](#), sharing their wisdom at the lively signature plenary session: “STEM In Afterschool: The Time is Right.”

Panelists at the plenary provided an overview of the policy landscape and demonstrated how funding and research are aligning to support increased and improved STEM education in afterschool programs.

Joan Higginbotham, one of only three African Americans and 50 women to have flown into space, said that STEM learning in afterschool is imperative: “Afterschool lets kids get hands-on learning, and it lets them see themselves in STEM-related careers.”

A board member of the Afterschool Alliance, Higginbotham moderated the plenary panel that featured: Kumar Garg, Policy Analyst at the [Office of Science and Technology Policy, Executive Office of the President](#); Gabrielle Lyon, Co-Founder and Executive Director of Project Exploration; and Tessie Topol, Senior Director of Strategic Philanthropy and Community Affairs at Time Warner Cable.

“The President has been focused on STEM since day one,” Garg said. Interactive learning sticks with students, and afterschool provides the perfect environment for that kind of learning to take hold, he said. Garg asked afterschool leaders to share input to help guide policy and make STEM learning stronger.

Helping lead efforts to expand and strengthen STEM afterschool are corporate foundations such as Time Warner Cable. Topol explained that Time Warner Cable, the second largest cable provider in the country, is driven by innovation and has committed

\$100 million to youth exploring STEM careers. Its hallmark [Connect a Million Minds](#) campaign is designed to get youth in afterschool excited about pursuing careers in STEM. The initiative’s [Connectory](#) is a searchable database providing information on local programs and resources.

“STEM is America’s ticket to the future. Who’s going to drive the bus?,” Lyon asked. An educator who specialized in paleontology prior to founding [Project Exploration](#) in Chicago, Lyon explained that STEM in afterschool is an intervention in the predominant social conditioning that science “isn’t for everyone...” One of the program’s strengths, she said, is bringing experts into the classroom to demonstrate to kids what they do, and provide youth with hands-on experiences.

The program is a success. More than 96 percent of Project Exploration fieldwork participants graduate from high school. Those students are three times more likely to enroll in a four-year college than their peers, and more than one-third of Project Exploration field alumni major in science once in college.

### **STEM Convening**

“STEM in Afterschool: The Time is Right” capped off a half-day, invitation only policy convening sponsored by S.D. Bechtel and Time Warner Cable, with additional funding provided by the Noyce Foundation. The event included the release of a new paper, [Afterschool: A Vital Partner in STEM Education](#).

The goal of the policy convening was to define the role of afterschool in the national STEM education agenda, and lay out policy recommendations to ensure that afterschool programs participate effectively and as full partners in STEM education.

While afterschool programs already make significant contributions to STEM education, many experts recognize a need to reach consensus on a unique and clear niche for STEM learning in afterschool and to develop

specific policy recommendations to move it forward. This high-level meeting brought together diverse stakeholders including leaders from a variety of sectors: youth serving organizations such as Girls Inc. and 4-H; K-12 formal education groups such as the National Science Teachers Association and the National Association of Elementary and Secondary School Principals; philanthropic and corporate funders; government agencies such as NASA, the National Science Foundation and the Department of Defense; and groups working to offer STEM in afterschool programs.

“The convening was successful in generating discussion about the issue and policy recommendations,” said Anita Krishnamurthi, Director of STEM Policy for the Afterschool Alliance. “It was framed around the current policy and political climate in Congress. We heard from representatives in the Department of Education and the White House Office of Science and Technology Policy, who emphasized their support for the afterschool space – but they also asked for clear indicators for outcomes that will demonstrate the impact of STEM learning in this setting.”

Krishnamurthi said the convening helped to refine key issues. The Afterschool Alliance will now incorporate input and complete a position statement and concrete policy recommendations. “We hope this information can help influence discussions around the *Elementary and Secondary Education Act* re-authorization, and position the field to take advantage of the many opportunities in both the public and private sectors to enhance STEM learning in afterschool,” she added.

At the convening, Bright House Networks announced that it will fund a new STEM Afterschool Ambassador position.

To learn more about STEM in afterschool, click [here](#).

## DEAN KAMEN, FOUNDER OF *FIRST*®, INVENTOR OF SEGWAY®, HONORED AS AFTERSCHOOL CHAMPION

[Dean Kamen](#), founder of *FIRST*®, received the Afterschool Alliance’s national “Afterschool for All” Champion Award for his work advocating for improved teaching of science and technology and his efforts to help young people discover the excitement and rewards of science and technology through the *FIRST* programs. Senator Jean Shaheen (NH) presented the Award at the [Afterschool for All Challenge](#)’s “Breakfast of Champions.”

“School and afterschool are complementary. It is ridiculous to have one without the other,” Kamen said in accepting his award. “When you put kids on a *FIRST* team, the dropout rate is cut in half. We don’t need *FIRST* in every school, only in the ones that care about kids.”

*FIRST* stands for “For Inspiration and Recognition of Science and Technology.” Founded in 1989, *FIRST* designs accessible, innovative programs that motivate young people to pursue education and career opportunities in science, technology, engineering and math(STEM), while building self-confidence, knowledge and life skills. *FIRST* targets children in kindergarten through twelfth grades, providing age-appropriate science, technology, engineering and math projects, including building motorized models and robots and participating in tournaments and competitions.

Kamen holds more than 440 U.S. and foreign patents, many of them for innovative medical devices that have expanded the frontiers of health care worldwide. He is the inventor of the groundbreaking Segway® Human Transporter.

Kamen has received many awards for his efforts. Notably, he was awarded the National Medal of Technology in 2000. Presented by



President Clinton, this award was in recognition of inventions that have advanced medical care worldwide, and for innovative and imaginative leadership in awakening America to the excitement of science and technology. Kamen was also awarded the Lemelson-MIT Prize in 2002, and was inducted into the National Inventors Hall of Fame in May 2005.

For more information on FIRST and how to participate, click [here](#).



## **FUNDING, ADVOCACY AT AFTERSCHOOL FOR ALL CHALLENGE**

With the news that funding for 21<sup>st</sup> Century Community Learning Centers (21<sup>st</sup> CCLC) was [cut by more than \\$12 million](#) in the federal budget for the current year, experts at the [Afterschool for All Challenge](#) provided valuable insight into what budget battles may loom and how advocates can best mobilize support.

“The pot of money is getting a lot smaller and that’s going to mean tremendous cuts to programs that we love,” warned Ivana Alexander of the YMCA. She urged advocates to “keep the drumbeat up” for the 2012 budget battle, noting that continually educating lawmakers about the importance of programs is critical.

Patrick Scandling, Legislative Aide for Senator Barbara Boxer (CA), said the Senator has concerns over proposals to consolidate 21<sup>st</sup> CCLC funding with other programs and “is not interested in doing that.” Senator Boxer, he said, is currently drafting the *Afterschool for America’s Children Act* which would maintain the current funding structure for 21<sup>st</sup> CCLC and strengthen what is already working well with afterschool programs. The bill would help coordinate state and federal afterschool funding, create better mechanisms to track student progress, increase parent

participation, strengthen professional development opportunities for afterschool providers, and more.

### **Making the Case for Afterschool**

Data is crucial to making the case for afterschool, and speakers urged advocates to get better at collecting data from their programs to share with lawmakers. “Anything that can show progress is being made” can be effective, said Ellen Fern, senior vice president at Washington Partners, LLC, suggesting that afterschool program leaders collect information on afterschool students who show improvements in attendance, performance, family engagement, or other factors that affect child development. “Invite lawmakers to your programs. Advocacy is education. Create an ongoing conversation with congressional staff,” Fern added.

Scandling encouraged advocates to talk about the specific ways funding cuts will affect programs. He said an effective way to reach lawmakers is to paint a picture of what budget cuts will mean to local children and families.

### **Getting the Word Out**

A successful afterschool awareness campaign has several key elements: message development; appropriate messengers; opportunities to deliver the message; target audiences and a media strategy. Panelists at the workshop on mobilizing support walked advocates through winning strategies for turning crises into opportunities, and building visibility to help in difficult times.

Media experts discussed channels that can help advocates amplify their messages, including social media such as Facebook, Twitter and blogs. They also noted that there is value to [reaching out](#) through traditional media channels, including daily and community newspapers, organizational newsletters and bulletins, radio shows, and television news programs.

For more information on reaching out to media and lawmakers, click [here](#). For more information on the federal budget, click [here](#).



## YOUTH ON CENTER STAGE AT “BREAKFAST OF CHAMPIONS”

Youth from New Hampshire, Missouri and Washington, D.C. took center stage at the [Afterschool for All Challenge](#)’s “Breakfast of Champions,” serving as shining testaments to the benefits of afterschool. Meanwhile, dozens of other young people from across the country visited with their Senators and Representatives.

Rebecca Dragon, a ninth grader in the Laconia, New Hampshire School District who attends the Engineering Club afterschool program, spoke to a crowd of policymakers, students, parents, educators and other afterschool advocates about what afterschool programs mean to her and her fellow students at the *Afterschool for All Challenge*.

The Noyce Foundation sponsored two Missouri teens from the Camdenton High School *FIRST*© robotics afterschool program to attend the *Afterschool for All Challenge*. Kyle Gulshen and Sierra Comer, who have both participated in *FIRST* for two years, participated in a youth advocacy session, met with leaders and staff at congressional offices, and helped present the national “Afterschool for All” Champion Award to Dean Kamen, the founder of *FIRST*. The youth were excited to meet Kamen, referring to him as a “rock star.”

At the “Breakfast of Champions,” Gulshen, who is in tenth grade, said, “Afterschool inspires us to look beyond the walls of our classroom and prepares us to solve unforeseen problems of the future. Afterschool inspires me to do all I can do.”

The youngest speaker at the “Breakfast” was Kai Goodall, a third-grader from Washington, D.C., who attends Horace Mann

Elementary School. The United States Tennis Association sponsored Goodall to share the benefits she has experienced in the three years she has participated in the Capital Region Education And Tennis Experience (CREATE).

After the “Breakfast,” youth joined adults in visiting with their lawmakers. As in years past, the afterschool students prepared for the lawmaker visits at a special leadership and advocacy workshop. They were poised and ready to speak on behalf of their programs about the vital need for afterschool.



## HEALTH & WELLNESS AT THE AFTERSCHOOL FOR ALL CHALLENGE

From exploring the benefits of the recently enacted [Healthy, Hunger-Free Kids Act](#) to learning the myriad ways to get involved with the First Lady’s [Let’s Move!](#) campaign, participants at the [Afterschool for All Challenge](#) learned how to incorporate or expand nutrition and physical fitness in their programs.

Dr. Georgia Hall, Senior Research Scientist of the National Institute of Out-of-School Time (NIOST), shared recent [guidelines](#) created by NOIST for healthy eating and physical activity for out-of-school time programs. It includes information on issues as diverse as content and quality, to staff training, implementation and best practices. The guidelines were endorsed by the National Afterschool Association in April. They are available [here](#).

Crystal FitzSimons, Director of School and Out-of-School Time Programs for the Food & Research Action Center, said that “the afterschool community was the big winner” in the reauthorization of the *Child Nutrition Act* which the President signed in December 2010. The legislation makes the afterschool meal program available



nationwide and includes \$750 million for afterschool supper. Information on establishing meal programs in afterschool is available [here](#).

The Let's Move! campaign has created a number of tools for afterschool programs to participate in health and wellness activities involving community members. Initiatives include [Let's Move! Cities and Towns](#) through which mayors have signed up to create policy changes or establish projects that offer opportunities for afterschool program partnerships; [Let's Move! Community Leaders](#), through which neighborhood and faith-based leaders pledge to plant community gardens, participate in summer feeding programs, and more; [Let's Move! Outside](#) involving the Army Corps of Engineers, National Park Service and others working to bring youth outdoors, and more.

Robin Schepper, Executive Director of the Let's Move! Campaign, encouraged afterschool program providers to get involved with the initiative and even create a Let's Move! afterschool challenge.



## IN THEIR OWN WORDS...

“I feel like I gave birth to this program [the 21<sup>st</sup> Century Community Learning Centers Initiative], and I don't intend to let it go.”

-- Senator Barbara Boxer (CA), at the *Afterschool for All Challenge* “Breakfast of Champions,” May 17, 2011

“We are living in challenging times. I hope you can reinforce the message with Congress that there is no greater priority than the children of this country. Afterschool is right at the top. We should have conversations regarding increasing afterschool opportunities and funding. We need more high quality programs.”

-- Representative David Cicilline (RI), at the *Afterschool for All Challenge* “Breakfast of Champions,” May 17, 2011

“What you are doing everyday changes the lives of children and, who knows, one of them could grow up to be president.”

-- Senator Sheldon Whitehouse (RI), at the *Afterschool for All Challenge* “Breakfast of Champions,” May 17, 2011

## Voices from the Afterschool Storybook...

“The girls come from different communities and backgrounds... are U.S.-born and immigrant; native to Massachusetts or other states;...homeless, live in housing developments or affluent neighborhoods; from two-parent or single-parent families; and have traveled the world by choice or by circumstance. Our goal is to have girls develop respect for each other and find commonalities with each other.”

-- Connie Chow, Executive Director, Science Club for Girls, Cambridge, Massachusetts

To read Chow's story, and read more afterschool voices from across the country, click [here](#). Share your story [here](#).



## IN THE NEWS...

**Delaware** – The new playground at John M. Clayton Elementary School in Frankford is what they call an “inside job.” Students in the afterschool program designed and planned the playground, which includes a stage for performances, a rock wall, a garden and benches. Students in the afterschool program researched ideas and equipment, surveyed their peers, and came up with prototypes including 3-D models of what they thought the playground would look like, the *Daily Times* reports.

**Illinois** – British inventor James Dyson, best known for his line of vacuum cleaners and hand dryers, is investing a half-million dollars in 20 Chicago afterschool programs in an effort to spark interest in engineering.

Beginning this fall, the afterschool programs will take part in a 10-week course that focuses on creative design, engineering and technology. “There’s no doubt at all that in the future, the jobs that will be created will be in science and engineering,” Dyson told the *Chicago Tribune*. “And neither of us (the U.S. and Britain) are producing the number of graduates in science and engineering that we need.”

**Indiana** – Afterschool students at Thomas Miller Elementary School in Lafayette are being introduced to music through a non-traditional instrument: the xylophone. The Miller Orff Ensemble was started by a music teacher who wanted to give students more time to learn music, and to build on the lessons learned during school day music classes. Children meet once a week and learn to play xylophones, metallophones and glockenspiels. The group has performed at the school talent show and fourth-grade graduation, reports the *Journal and Courier*.

**Maryland** – Students in the 21<sup>st</sup> Century Dream Team Rhythm Club will be drumming, beat boxing, singing and dancing on a local morning show this month. The afterschool program, run by [Afterschool Ambassador Mark Smith](#), is comprised of students from seven 21<sup>st</sup> Century Community Learning Centers in St. Mary’s County Public Schools. They participate in an academic program daily before rehearsing their routines, and have performed 42 shows this year. The Rhythm Club will be featured in nine segments on the *Fox-5 Morning Show* on May 31, beginning at 6:20 a.m.



## AFTERSCHOOL AND THE ECONOMY

The Afterschool Alliance has released a new Issue Brief examining the impact of the Great Recession – the last three years of economic hardship – on afterschool programs and working families.

The Issue Brief examines the effect of budget cuts and loss of funding, which forced many afterschool programs to lower enrollment numbers, reduce hours of operation, increase fees or drop participants. This resulted in an increased burden on working families and their children, as families struggled to find and afford afterschool programs or alternative child care.

Afterschool is integral to economic recovery, the Issue Brief says, as unemployed parents return to the workforce. Children benefit from the stability, social and emotion supports and academic enrichment that afterschool programs provide, and afterschool has been proven to provide a positive return on investment for public and private funders.

“Despite the proven need for afterschool programs to help recovery efforts for many families, far too many states, cities and towns are cutting funding,” the Issue Brief says. “In this time of drastic adversity, while families are still being hit hard by the lasting swells of the Great Recession, the nation’s children need afterschool now more than ever. Afterschool programs are helping kids and families weather the recession and access ample opportunities to learn and grow.”

For more information, click [here](#). Read the Issue Brief [here](#).



## THE “SUPERBOWL OF SMARTS”

The Camdenton LASER Team competed last month in the [FIRST® Robotics World Championships](#) – a competition that actor Morgan Freeman dubbed “[The Super Bowl of](#)

[Smarts.](#)” This is the second year the afterschool students at Camden High School have made it to the final round of the robotics competition.

The 31 Camden High School students on the LASER team competed against teams from 29 different countries, using a robot that won them [top honors at the FIRST regional competition](#) in St. Louis. Their robot picks up inflated inner tubes and hangs them on pegs more than nine feet off the floor.

Students at the world championships were treated to a concert by the Black Eyed Peas and actor Morgan Freeman was in attendance, the *Lake News* reports.

[Afterschool Ambassador](#) Sherry Comer is the Camden Afterschool Services Director. She was recognized as one of nine state Afterschool Champions at the “Breakfast of Champions” at this year’s *Afterschool for All Challenge*, for her dedication and outstanding support of afterschool.

See the FIRST Robotics promotional video featuring Morgan Freeman [here](#).



## NEW RESEARCH OFFERINGS FROM HFRP

The Harvard Family Research Project (HFRP) has added a new publication to its slate of research and analysis of afterschool programs, as well as several updates and new entries in its extensive Research and Evaluation Database.

The [new publication](#) focuses on out-of-school time programs for youth in middle and high school. Noting that “some programs struggle to implement high-quality services, recruit and retain older youth, and reach optimal outcomes,” the publication discusses “the benefits, challenges, and successful strategies of OST programs for older youth, based on data from eight recent evaluations and research studies.”

Each of the eight studies is also included in the [HFRP database](#). They include new data and analysis from an evaluation of the California 21<sup>st</sup> Century High School After School Safety and Enrichment for Teens Program, and separate studies focused on program- and city-level strategies for engaging older youth in afterschool, and on recruiting and retaining older African American and Hispanic boys in afterschool.

HFRP also updated five existing entries in its database, including studies of programs run by Big Brothers and Big Sisters of America, the Boys & Girls Clubs of America, Citizens Schools, New York City’s Department of Youth and Community Development, and The After-School Corporation.

In addition, HFRP is seeking evaluation and research studies of afterschool programs that use digital media for teaching and learning. Programs with qualifying evaluations that would like to be considered for inclusion in the database are encouraged to contact [erin\\_harris@harvard.edu](mailto:erin_harris@harvard.edu).



## PROGRAM CERTIFICATION FROM NASA

NASA is offering workshops around the country to train afterschool practitioners to run the NASA [Afterschool Universe](#) program – a science and astronomy program for middle school students. The free training will certify attendees to run the program or to train others to do so.

Participants in the two-day workshops will receive access to the Afterschool Universe Program Manual, as well as PowerPoint presentations to provide additional background for the program leader, downloadable files, worksheets and evaluation forms.

Find a training in your area [here](#). For more information about Afterschool Universe, click [here](#).



## JOIN THE STEM COMPETITION!

Carnegie Corporation of New York, [The Opportunity Equation](#), and [Ashoka's Changemakers](#) recently launched an online competition to unleash the talent, passion and real-world skills of experts to engage students of all ages in rich science, technology, engineering and math (STEM) learning.

The competition, [Partnering for Excellence: Innovations in Science + Technology + Engineering + Math \(STEM\) Education](#), calls for solutions from community partners and others that engage STEM experts from health care, technology, pharmaceuticals, academia, nonprofits/museums, architecture, graphic-design, banking and beyond in the nation's schools, particularly in high-need schools.

Winners will receive more than \$120,000 in cash and in-kind prizes. Entries will be accepted until August 3, and can draw from partnerships that bring STEM talent to students and teachers or can reflect new, innovative ideas or programs. Winners of all of the prizes will be announced on November 16.

The [Partnering for Excellence](#) competition is looking for model solutions that deliver STEM content and skills to students by using existing resources from the private and not-for-profit sectors in new ways, demanding shared accountability for student achievement, and fostering long-term collaborations between schools and a wide array of partners.

Entries will be judged by a panel of experts that includes Tim Brown, President and CEO, IDEO; Caroline Kennedy, President, Kennedy Library Foundation; and Dr. Robert Moses, President, The Algebra Project.

A video, step-by-step instructions, and tips about how to make entries stand out are available online to assist those entering their solutions. Go to

<http://www.changemakers.com/stemeducation> to enter the competition, nominate solutions, comment on entries, and discuss and share your ideas for advancing STEM education in the United States.



## GET YOUR FILL OF NEWS AT AFTERSCHOOL SNACK!

“We just wrapped up the 10<sup>th</sup> annual [Afterschool for All Challenge](#), and I'm feeling incredibly grateful. More than 350 parents, youth, educators and advocates – spanning 40 states – came to the nation's Capital for our two-day gathering, and met face-to-face with more than 200 Members of Congress and their staff to urge them to preserve funding for afterschool programs...” – Ursula Helminski

Hungry for the latest news on afterschool? Be sure to check out [Afterschool Snack](#), the Afterschool Alliance's up-to-the-minute blog on afterschool news, trends and information from across the country. Recent posts include:

- [The 10<sup>th</sup> Afterschool for All Challenge: Two Days, 220 Members of Congress](#)
- [Calling all afterschool artists! Design the 2011 Lights On Afterschool Poster!](#)
- [Rivka on the Road: Reactions to 21<sup>st</sup> CCLC Essential Principles](#)
- [New Issue Brief Looks at Afterschool in the Wake of the Great Recession](#)
- [Making Sense of the Spending Battles in Congress, Part 2: FY2012](#)

And be sure to tune in every Wednesday for a national news round-up, and throughout

the week for your daily dose of afterschool. Check out Afterschool Snack [here](#).



Challenge *continued from page one...* conference,” Senator Shaheen said. “We understand [STEM education] is critical to our future as a country. Unless we do a better job of training engineers, scientists and mathematicians, we won’t continue to be the economic powerhouse we have been in the past. We have STEM legislation that we hope all of you will support.”

Washington Senator Patty Murray shared her story on how an education funding battle for her children’s school brought her into the world of politics, and has made her a determined advocate for afterschool. “Throughout my career I have not forgotten what education means for the moms and dads who are counting on us. To me, having an afterschool program that is strong is just common sense. As we work to reauthorize the *Elementary and Secondary Education Act*, I will make sure afterschool remains a strong part of our education system. It is absolutely critical that 21<sup>st</sup> CCLC gets the resources it needs.”

Senator Mark Begich (AK) also shared personal experiences with “Breakfast” participants. When he was mayor of Anchorage, the Senator began what is now a successful mentoring program that allows municipal employees to take time off to tutor in schools. It has now expanded to the private sector, he said. “Even in these times of tight budgets, educational investments will continue to pay tenfold down the road,” he said. “The kids of today have enormous capacity. Thank you for advocating on behalf of young people and for making our communities better when it comes to education.”

In addition to lawmakers, participants at the “Breakfast” included students from: Camdenton, Missouri’s Camdenton 4-H Laser Team 3284; the Laconia, New Hampshire,

Engineering Club; [Houston, Texas’ Cooperative for Afterschool Enrichment](#); and [Washington D.C.’s Capital Region Education and Tennis Experience](#).

The Afterschool Alliance honored nine state Afterschool Champions for their dedication and outstanding support for afterschool. They are:

- **Connecticut:** Agnes Quiñones, Education Consultant, Connecticut State Department of Education;
- **Kansas:** Nancy Volpe, Consultant, CVS Pathways to Pharmacy and America’s Promise;
- **Michigan:** Kathleen Straus, Board Member, Michigan State Board of Education;
- **Minnesota:** R.T. Rybak, Mayor of the City of Minneapolis;
- **Missouri:** Sherry Comer, Afterschool Services Director, Camdenton R-III Schools;
- **New Jersey:** Vaughn L. McKoy, President, PSEG Foundation;
- **New York:** Kyle Stewart, Executive Director, Alliance of New York State YMCAs, Inc.;
- **Pennsylvania:** Carmen M. Medina, Chief of the Division of Student Services, Pennsylvania Department of Education Bureau of Teaching and Learning; and
- **Virginia:** Mark H. Emery, Administrator for After-School Programs, Fairfax County Public Schools.

After the “Breakfast,” students, parents and afterschool leaders met with hundreds of Members of Congress and aides to discuss the importance of afterschool programs and the need to expand opportunities for students to engage in STEM activities in those programs.

“As leaders debate education reform, we need to draw on the lessons of afterschool. We have the best kind of example of what

works,” said Afterschool Alliance Executive Director Jodi Grant.

The 2011 *Afterschool for All Challenge* took place May 16 – 17 in Washington, D.C. It was sponsored by: United States Tennis Association, Peavey Electronics, NAMM, Open Society Foundations, Cable in the Classroom, National AfterSchool Association, Clever Crazes for Kids, and Arnold and Sandra Grant. Additional funding was provided by the S.D. Bechtel, Jr. Foundation, Time Warner Cable, the Noyce Foundation and jcpenny.

For more information on the Challenge, click [here](#). For information on how the cuts to 21<sup>st</sup> CCLC may affect state funding, click [here](#).

## SEND YOUR ARTWORK TODAY!

The Afterschool Alliance’s [Lights On Afterschool poster contest](#) is underway – don’t miss out! Students in afterschool programs are invited to submit [artwork](#) for consideration. The winning image will be printed on 70,000 posters sent to afterschool programs from coast to coast to use at their *Lights On Afterschool* celebrations. The image will also be featured on our *Lights On Afterschool* website. The deadline is June 30. For more information, click [here](#).

## MARK YOUR CALENDARS...

### June 7, 2011

The California Afterschool Network will host a webinar on how afterschool programs can use the new option under the *Healthy, Hunger-Free Kids Act of 2010* to get federal reimbursement for serving meals, in addition to snacks. The free webinar is a telephone and web-based workshop. For more information, click [here](#).

### June 21, 2011

The National Summer Learning Association is sponsoring National Summer Learning Day – a great opportunity to showcase your program and get the word out about the importance of summer learning. The Association is offering an archived webinar series; each webinar looks at a component of the planning process and offers suggestions for planning a Summer Learning Day event. Check out the [archived webinars](#) and learn more about National Summer Learning Day [here](#).

### July 7 – 9, 2011

The Asia Society Partnership for Global Learning is a national network of K-12 educators and policymakers dedicated to sharing best practices and advancing public policy to integrate global knowledge and skills within the mainstream of American education. The Partnership’s fourth annual conference, “Global Connections, Global Learning, Global Advocacy” will take place in the Washington, DC Metropolitan Area. For more information, click [here](#).

### July 11 – 14, 2011

The National Institute on Out-of-School Time (NIOST) is hosting a summer seminar series for afterschool professionals in Boston. Seminar topics include preparing the next generation of out-of-school time leaders, using the Afterschool Program Assessment System, training staff and assisting with quality improvement. For more information, click [here](#).

### July 25 – 27, 2011

The U.S. Department of Education will hold the 21<sup>st</sup> Century Community Learning Centers Summer Institute at the Gaylord National Hotel & Convention Center in National Harbor, MD, from Tuesday, July 26, 2011 to Wednesday, July 27, 2011. There will be a preconference session for SEA Coordinators and Project Directors on Monday, July 25. This year’s theme is “A Network of Partners

Supporting Increased Learning in 21<sup>st</sup> CCLC Programs.” The Institute will include more than 100 interactive breakout sessions. *For a full agenda, registration information and more, click [here](#).*

**✍ October 17 – 18, 2011**

School’s Out Washington will host The Bridge from School to Afterschool and Back Conference in Seattle. Participants at the ninth annual Bridge Conference will attend workshops and hear from speakers on topic such as youth voice and engagement; science, technology, engineering and math (STEM); sustainability; and social/emotional learning. *For more information, click [here](#).*

**✍ October 20, 2011**

The Afterschool Alliance will sponsor the 12<sup>th</sup> annual *Lights On Afterschool*, raising awareness about the benefits that afterschool programs offer to families and communities across the country. *Lights On Afterschool* is the only national rally for afterschool programs, and in recent years it has included some 7,500 events throughout the United States and at U.S. military bases worldwide. *For more information, to plan an event or share your plans, and to sign up for free materials, click [here](#).*

**✍ October 31 – November 4, 2011**

The California Afterschool Network will host its 2011 STEP UP High School and AMP UP Middle School conferences in San Diego, California. Both conferences convene statewide and national afterschool practitioners, including administrators, district managers/coordinators, site directors and frontline staff. STEP UP will be held October 31 to November 2, and AMP UP will be November 2 to November 4. *For more information, click [here](#).*

**✍ February 15 – 18, 2012**

Foundations, Inc. will hold its 15<sup>th</sup> annual Beyond School Hours conference in Burlingame, California. Thousands of afterschool advocates will gather for professional development, and will hear from Geoffrey Canada, author and president/CEO of Harlem Children’s Zone in New York City. *For more information, click [here](#).*



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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](http://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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