



## **PROJECT EXPLORATION, REP. KILDEE HONORED AS AFTERSCHOOL COMES TO D.C.**

More than 300 afterschool program providers, parents, educators, lawmakers and youth advocates came to Capitol Hill earlier this month for the Afterschool Alliance's [Afterschool for All Challenge: Transforming Research into Action](#). For two days, participants learned about recent developments in afterschool research, shared information about the unmet needs of children and families, heard pledges of support from leaders and lawmakers, discovered how to incorporate best practices into their own programs, and more.

On the second day of the *Afterschool for All Challenge*, the Afterschool Alliance hosted its eleventh annual "Breakfast of Champions" to celebrate afterschool programs, honor youth and adult champions, and rally advocates to make the case to members of Congress that afterschool programs play a powerful role in supporting children, families and communities. At the Breakfast, Afterschool Alliance Executive Director Jodi Grant said, "Our nation's afterschool programs, and the kids and families who rely on them, are at risk." She encouraged afterschool advocates to "make sure our elected officials know what is at stake. If we want kids engaged in learning, and envisioning a brighter future, we need to provide more support for afterschool programs, not less."

### **Members of Congress Speak Out**

Senators Barbara Boxer (CA) and *Challenge continued on page four...*

## **NYC MAYOR PROPOSES DEVASTATING AFTERSCHOOL CUTS**

New York City Mayor Michael Bloomberg released a revised budget proposal earlier this month that cuts \$150 million from the city's day care and afterschool programs. These [funding cuts](#) will force 172 out-of-school-time programs, serving almost 25,000 elementary and middle school students, to close this fall.

Mayor Bloomberg's initial budget proposal sent shockwaves through the education community earlier this spring. Parents and afterschool advocates launched the [Campaign for Children](#) in March to unify the voice of the hundreds of programs impacted by these massive proposed cuts. In the days since Mayor Bloomberg's revised budget proposal was released on May 3, thousands of advocates and parents have participated in [Lights Out New York rallies](#) in Queens, Brooklyn, the Bronx and Upper Manhattan.

These proposed cuts set the stage for tense budget negotiations with the New York City Council, which is required by law to pass a budget before the 2013 fiscal year starts on July 1, 2012.

City Council members have responded with words of support for afterschool programs. City Council Speaker Christine C. Quinn and Councilman Domenic M. Recchia Jr., chairman of the Finance Committee, held a May 3 news conference and said they were particularly worried about the proposed cuts to city-subsidized child care and afterschool programs. Council Speaker Quinn called the *NYC continued on page nine...*

## OUTREACH

One of the most buzzed about topics at this year's *Afterschool for All Challenge* was you! The members of Congress who spoke at this year's "Breakfast of Champions" had strong words of encouragement, advice and tips for advocates making their case to legislators.

- ✓ Representative David Cicilline (RI) urged afterschool providers to share personal stories that convey what afterschool means to you. He said, "I think some of my colleagues need to hear that."
- ✓ Representative Rosa DeLauro (CT) passionately implored advocates to refuse to "take 'no' for an answer." Rep. DeLauro said it's time for advocates to speak up and make sure that members of Congress know that supporting afterschool programs is important to their constituents.
- ✓ Senator Barbara Boxer (CA) advised afterschool providers and advocates to use statistics when persuading policy makers. She said it's time to "step up to the plate" and persuade her colleagues in the Senate and House of Representatives not to use afterschool funding to extend the school day.
- ✓ Senator Sheldon Whitehouse (RI) expressed his gratitude for afterschool providers and advocates: "I appreciate the great work that you're all doing."
- ✓ Representative Dale Kildee (MI) encouraged afterschool advocates to "keep up your good work," despite challenges. He said taking action now will "make for a better country. We're in difficult times now, but please keep up your good work."

### Continue to Speak Out

Whether you traveled to Washington, D.C., for the 11<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 ways students and families are harmed by the budget cuts and funding shortfalls that are affecting so many programs.

Here are some ideas for getting out your messages about afterschool. Be sure to visit the Afterschool Alliance's website for [additional tips](#).

- **Contact your members of Congress**, calling for their support of afterschool programs.
- **Join the [Afterschool for All campaign](#)** and support the grassroots movement created to ensure that all youth have access to quality afterschool programs.
- **Arrange an afterschool program [site visit](#)** for policy makers and their staff members. Sample invitations, planning guides and schedules are available [online](#) to help make your visit a success.
- **Leverage traditional and social [media](#)** to generate news coverage about the extraordinary benefits afterschool programs provide and the challenges these programs face. Templates, talking points and key messages are [online](#).



## FUNDING NEWS

The Afterschool Alliance's website has numerous resources for afterschool providers looking for new ways to raise money for their programs, including tips for initiating relationships with funders and businesses, and for identifying funding opportunities.

### GRANTS/AWARDS AVAILABLE

#### Get Ur Good On

Kids and young adults ages 5-25 are eligible to apply for \$500 Get Ur Good On grants to support youth-led projects. Projects must address a demonstrated community need or issue and take place during June, July and/or August 2012. Youth must have a project mentor to help throughout the project, and applicants younger than 18 must have a parent or guardian's permission. Get Ur Good On grants are made possible through the generosity of Starkey Hearing Foundation, with promotional support from Miley Cyrus. Applications are due May 27. Apply online [here](#).

#### NASCAR Fans Improving the Lives of Children

Nominations are open for the [2012 Betty Jane France Humanitarian Award](#) from the NASCAR Foundation. Nominees should be NASCAR fans (18 or older) who have made a significant impact on the lives of children through volunteerism or uncompensated charity work during the past five years. One winner will receive a \$100,000 donation to the charity of his or her choice and three winners will receive \$25,000 for their chosen charities. Nominations are due May 31. Click [here](#) for more information.

#### 2012 Promise Neighborhood Grant Applications

The U.S. Department of Education has opened its latest round of Promise Neighborhood grants for planning and implementation. Nonprofits, institutions of higher education and Indian tribes are invited to apply for funds to develop or execute plans to improve educational and developmental outcomes for students in distressed neighborhoods. The grants provide critical support for the planning and implementation of comprehensive services ranging from early learning and K-12 to college and career, including programs to improve the health, safety and stability of neighborhoods, as well as to boost family engagement in student learning and improve access to learning technology. The Department expects to distribute 15 planning grants worth up to \$500,000 each, and five to seven implementation grants worth \$4 million to \$6 million each. The deadline for notices of intent to apply is June 8; full applications are due July 27. More information is available [online](#).



## HAVE YOU TAKEN THE 2012 UNCERTAIN TIMES SURVEY?

How has your afterschool program fared in the [wake of the recent recession](#)? The Afterschool Alliance wants to know: What are the current trends in enrollment, funding and capacity? Have funding sources changed in the last several years and, if so, how is that affecting students and families? Please take 15-20 minutes to share data from your afterschool program for the Afterschool Alliance's [2012 Uncertain Times survey](#).

The Afterschool Alliance conducted previous Uncertain Times surveys in [2006](#) and [2009](#) to gauge how the economy affected afterschool programs across the country. The results of those surveys have been cited in numerous national publications and were essential in informing the public and elected officials of the immense need for additional afterschool funding.

When filling out the survey, keep in mind that it will be helpful to have handy all statistics on your program demographics (number of children attending, free/reduced-price lunch percentage, funding data, etc.).

**After completing the survey, program providers will be entered to win a new iPad. Surveys must be completed by 11:59 p.m. on May 31, 2012 to be eligible to win.**

Click [here](#) to get started on the Uncertain Times survey now. Contact Chris D'Agostino at [cdagostino@afterschoolalliance.org](mailto:cdagostino@afterschoolalliance.org) or 202-347-2030 with questions about the survey.



*Challenge continued from page one...*

Sheldon Whitehouse (RI) and Representatives David Cicilline (RI), Rosa DeLauro (CT) and Dale Kildee (MI) attended the "Breakfast of Champions" and addressed the crowd.

Rep. Cicilline said, "We have so much evidence to show that afterschool makes a huge difference for kids and families," and he

called on his colleagues in Congress to expand federal funding for afterschool programs. "It's really important that we start thinking about our responsibility to kids, from the time they get up in the morning until they go to bed at night, and afterschool is a big part of that responsibility."

Calling afterschool programs a "blessing for families in today's tough economy," Rep. DeLauro said that afterschool programs have the ability to transform children's lives for the better.

Sen. Whitehouse emphasized the role afterschool programs play in engaging middle school youth. He said that keeping middle school students engaged in learning is key to their success in high school and called afterschool programs "a big part of this."

"I'm perplexed why we have to fight for [21st Century Community Learning Centers funding] every single year. And we're fighting over underfunded legislation," Sen. Boxer said. She urged the crowd to continue to fight for increased federal funding to support afterschool programs, which she said are "engaging" and "save lives."

### Hollywood and Real-Life Heroes Shine Brightly

Actor Kevin Sorbo, hero of the big and small screens and a familiar face to the audience, traveled to Washington to raise his voice for afterschool programs and emcee the "Breakfast of Champions." Sorbo is a longtime afterschool champion who has used his celebrity to promote A World Fit for Kids! a Los Angeles-based program, and to support the national afterschool movement. He inspired and engaged the audience throughout the two-hour event.

Sorbo was followed by afterschool's newest celebrity, "Pobo" Efekoro, a New York high school student featured in [Brooklyn Castle](#), a new documentary. *Brooklyn Castle* focuses on New York public school I.S. 318, which is home to the most winning middle school chess team in the country. The film follows five teens and addresses the ability of

public schools to do great things when they have the resources. Pobo was part of the chess team at I.S. 318 for three years and now coaches younger students.

Pobo spoke eloquently about his experiences participating in afterschool programs and credited them with his success. He also addressed the current budget crisis in New York City that threatens afterschool programs at I.S. 318 and elsewhere (see next article, “NYC Mayor Proposes Devastating Afterschool Cuts”) and warned, “If these cuts are happening in New York, the greatest city on the planet, then it’s safe to say that they may be coming to other cities.”

Youth Ambassadors from the CASE program in Houston, Texas, performed an *Afterschool for All Challenge*-themed cheer remixed in the style of “We Will Rock You.” And Vanessa Arnold, a young chef from Chicago’s Afterschool Matters program, shared the ways afterschool has shaped her life.

### Afterschool Champions

In addition to celebrating Pobo and other youth leaders, the Afterschool Alliance singled out 10 individuals for their tireless and extraordinary support for afterschool programs. The [National Afterschool for All Champions](#) are [Project Exploration](#) co-founders [Paul Sereno and Gabrielle Lyon](#). Their highly successful program in Chicago provides girls and students of color with opportunities to work with scientists who act as teachers, mentors and role models. Serano spoke passionately about how out-of-school-time opportunities provided a pathway into science when school wasn’t working for him. “I learned by engaging in science,” he said. Lyon said she and Paul started an afterschool program focusing on science, technology, engineering and math (STEM) before it was a “hot” issue, because they feel that access to STEM is an issue of social justice.

The 2012 [Afterschool State Champions](#) are:

- **California:** Jennifer Peck, executive director, Partnership for Children and Youth
- **Florida:** Claudia Davant, managing partner, Adams St. Advocates
- **Kansas:** Elaine Johannes, associate professor, Kansas State University
- **Nevada:** Olivia Diaz, Assemblywoman, Nevada State Legislature
- **New York:** Lena Townsend, executive director, Robert Bowne Foundation
- **New York:** Anne Lawrence, program officer, Robert Bowne Foundation
- **Ohio:** Monica J. Mitchell, associate professor of pediatrics and co-director of INNOVATIONS, Cincinnati Children’s Hospital & Medical Center
- **Pennsylvania:** Kathryn Hynes, assistant professor, Pennsylvania State University

Rep. Dale Kildee received the Charles Stewart Mott Foundation’s William S. White Achievement Award in recognition of his decades of work in support of afterschool programs. Rep. Kildee said the award held special significance for him: “It is an honor to receive this award named for Bill White, a man I greatly respect and admire. I have always believed in the importance of afterschool enrichment opportunities. That is why I authored the 21st Century Community Learning Centers program and am working hard to ensure it continues as a national education policy priority.” White is CEO of the Charles Stewart Mott Foundation.

Following the “Breakfast of Champions,” *Challenge* participants headed off to more than 200 meetings with their representatives, senators and legislative aides to discuss the importance of afterschool programs to children, families and communities. Additionally more than 200 emails were sent to members of Congress by parents and



afterschool advocates who could not attend the *Challenge* in person.

The 2012 *Afterschool for All Challenge* was generously sponsored by: United States Tennis Association, the NAMM Foundation, Peavey Electronics, Cable in the Classroom, National AfterSchool Association and Arnold and Sandra Grant. Additional funding was provided by Torani and the C.S. Mott Foundation.



## AFTERSCHOOL WORKS: TRANSFORMING RESEARCH INTO ACTION

This year's plenary session at the [Afterschool for All Challenge](#) highlighted some of the most compelling research that finds that afterschool programs improve attendance, student behavior, graduation rates and more.

[Afterschool Works: Understanding the Evidence & Transforming Research into Action](#) drew attention to the following recent findings:

- A [meta-analysis of 68 afterschool program studies](#) conducted by Joseph Durlak and Roger Weissberg found that high-quality afterschool programs are improving student attendance and behavior and raising academic achievement.
- An [evaluation of Chicago's successful Project Exploration](#) (founders Gabe Lyon and Paul Serrano were honored at the "Breakfast of Champions") science, technology, engineering and math (STEM) education program found that 95 percent of students in the program graduate high school.
- The [EduCare afterschool programs](#) in Los Angeles showed a 90 percent graduation rate, compared to just a 60 percent graduation rate for other students.

- [Deborah Vandell at UC Irvine found](#) that students in afterschool programs showed gains in work habits and math scores and a reduction in misconduct in class.

After introducing the research, Afterschool Alliance Board Chairman Terry Peterson moderated a panel discussion with Joe Davis, Florida Afterschool Network; Carol McElvain, American Institutes for Research; and Richard Tagle, Higher Achievement. Each of the panelists shared their first-hand experiences with program evaluation and data collection and pointed out how afterschool providers should use data to support the compelling stories of their programs.

During the discussion, the experts analyzed the components of quality programs, the importance of continuous improvement and the necessary steps to take afterschool to the next level.

McElvain emphasized the benefits of sustaining program attendance. She called it one of the key factors in determining student interest and said that good attendance leads to other benefits as well.

Davis called afterschool "the missing link toward students gaining academic achievement." He emphasized educating decision-makers on the successes of afterschool and the importance of intentional programming that complements but does not replicate the school day.

"Don't be afraid of evaluations," but embrace them, was the advice from Tagle. He emphasized that negative evaluation findings can be helpful in bringing a board and staff together and in dictating how to change a program to make it more successful.

Eric Gurna, executive director of Development Without Limits and host and producer of the podcast [Please Speak Freely](#), responded to the panel's remarks with his take on the educational climate in the United States. Gurna's comments focused on the dangers of high-stakes standardized testing and the value of the multiple benefits

afterschool programs provide. Gurna taped the plenary session for a future podcast.

The plenary session kicked off with an extended trailer for the acclaimed documentary [Brooklyn Castle](#). After the trailer, the film’s producer, Katie Dellamaggiore, encouraged afterschool providers to use the documentary in their own advocacy to show that afterschool programs are a valuable tool and a key to success.



## STUDYING UP ON STEM: TWO SESSIONS FOCUS ON CHALLENGES AND OPPORTUNITIES

“Do good stuff and make sure people know about it.” That was the succinct advice offered by Martin Storksdieck, director of the Board on Science Education at the National Research Council, in the morning session he led, *Defining Impacts and Outcomes of STEM Learning in Afterschool*, on Day One of the [Afterschool for All Challenge](#).

The fact that the afterschool and informal learning community “has difficulty communicating its impact” doesn’t change the fact that “numbers are needed,” Storksdieck said. “If you don’t define yourself and your impact, others will do it for you.”

The session, convened by Anita Krishnamurthi, director of STEM policy for the Afterschool Alliance, drew a roomful of attendees eager for ideas about how to measure their programs’ accomplishments. “Getting kids inspired and engaged is something we do well,” Krishnamurthi said, “but we’re hearing that it’s not enough.”

Friday, May 18, is a key date for science, technology, engineering and math (STEM) efforts, Storksdieck said, with the release of the first public draft of the [Next Generation Science Standards](#). “Getting a sense of what students will experience in science is important,” he said, adding that new standards

are “driven by wanting students to learn and experience science in the same way that science is actually practiced”—a philosophy that afterschool practitioners need to keep in mind as they consider program design and outcomes.

Several themes emerged as Storksdieck solicited questions and comments from the audience:

- Programs struggle with grant requirements to report STEM outcomes, although one grant officer encouraged program leaders to speak up to grant providers when this is the case and explained that grant providers can be unaware that reporting requirements are onerous and can be more flexible than recipients might expect.
- Afterschool can be asked to justify STEM efforts more than formal environments are, even when science time in the classroom is less than what’s provided in the afterschool setting. But instead of seeing that as an injustice, Storksdieck said, “that’s an opportunity to show importance.”
- Leverage your evaluation (and engage your evaluator or researcher) to show more than simply *what* is working. “Understanding *why* outcomes work is important,” Storksdieck said.
- Programs may want outcomes spelled out for them, but when outcomes are specified (by states and others), trying to hit them all can be a trap that programs fall into. “Saying ‘Give me the 10 outcomes’ isn’t the answer,” Krishnamurthi pointed out. “You need to define them based on what works for you.” She said that the Afterschool Alliance has embarked on a study designed to have this conversation with afterschool providers in the field and major stakeholders.

State STEM Vital Signs published by [Change the Equation](#) and information on grantwriting and evaluations at [InformalScience.org](#) were mentioned as

valuable online resources for programs grappling with outcomes, and Storksdieck challenged STEM programs to “make the case” for their relevance “once and for all. Come together on a research project that shows the impact of engagement beyond the ‘ooh, ahh’ effect.”

### A Day at the Museum

After lunch, the STEM conversation continued in the session *Building Bridges and Forming Partnerships with Science Centers and Museums*. Laura Huerta Migus, director of equity and diversity for the Association of Science-Technology Centers, moderated a panel discussion featuring Preeti Gupta, director of youth learning and research for the American Museum of Natural History; John Jewitt, a librarian with Maryland’s Howard County Library System; and Carol Tang, director of the Coalition for Science After School.

“Afterschool providers have skills that are different from museum staff members,” said Tang. “They can learn from each other. Museums are empty after school. They have facilities that are underutilized at a time when you have kids in a program.”

Libraries, on the other hand, are exceptionally busy after school, Jewitt said. But that doesn’t mean they’re not in a position to offer support as they “move beyond building collections and emphasize how to connect people to collections and information.” Many systems such as Howard County can provide librarians who will meet with afterschool providers at their program sites to discuss available resources and strategize on how to best engage students, he added.

The panelists emphasized that the key to tapping into the potential of science centers, museums and libraries—getting access to space, programs and content experts, often at low or no cost—is simply reaching out: making calls until you connect with the right person and identify a partnership opportunity that works for both of you. They also stressed

the importance of persistence—building relationships can take time but have great payoffs in the end.



## GET MOVING AFTER SCHOOL

“Exercise is a positive gateway behavior.”  
 “At any weight or fitness level, physical activity is a magic bullet for health.”  
 “It’s a marathon and not a sprint, but programs need to first get on the track.”

All of these tips were shared at the workshop session on physical activity and afterschool at the [Afterschool for All Challenge](#). Top national physical activity and education experts emphasized research, resources, tips and tools on ways to get students moving after the school day ends.

Normandie Nigh, executive director of [A World Fit for Kids!](#), moderated the panel discussion and said that afterschool is and should be a platform for reducing childhood obesity. Afterschool programs are important not only in improving health outcomes for youth, but “in the overall success for kids.”

In addition to Nigh, youth development and physical activity experts Katie Adamson, [YMCA of the USA](#); Shellie Pfohl, [President’s Council on Fitness, Sports & Nutrition](#); and Jean Wiecha, Exercise and Health Sciences Department, University of Massachusetts Boston, shared the latest research and groundbreaking new efforts in the field with afterschool providers on how to get youth moving after school.

Focusing on all ability levels, tying physical fitness activities to the school day and creating a positive social environment with support and “buy in” from school and community leaders are important steps that afterschool programs need to take to ensure success, they said.

The speakers suggested incorporating some of the following programs/initiatives into current afterschool activities:



- ✓ [Let's Move! Initiative](#)
- ✓ [Presidential Active Lifestyle Award \(PALA+\)](#)
- ✓ [Afterschool Energizers](#)
- ✓ [Take 10](#)
- ✓ [Instant Recess](#)
- ✓ [Catch Kids Club](#)
- ✓ [Food & Fun Afterschool](#)

For more ideas check out the following resources:

- ✓ [Healthy Out-of-School Time \(HOST\)](#)
- ✓ [National AfterSchool Association Standards for Healthy Eating and Physical Activity](#)
- ✓ [Community Healthy Living Index](#)

Advocates left *Making the Move: Promoting Physical Activity After School* with a call to action to make the case in each of their communities that physical activity is as essential to youth as reading, math or science.



### COLLABORATION PRIZE AWARDED TO AFTERSCHOOL ALLIANCE STEM DIRECTOR

The [National Girls Collaborative Project](#) (NGCP) awarded its 2012 Outstanding Individual Commitment to Collaboration Award to Afterschool Alliance



STEM Policy Director Anita Krishnamurthi at a luncheon last month. NGCP facilitates collaboration among a diverse set of organizations committed to informing and encouraging girls in science, technology, engineering and math (STEM). The group encourages leveraging resources, sharing exemplary practices and reducing isolation in the field to transform the way practitioners

and educators work to advance girls' participation in STEM.

NGCP created the Collaboration Awards to celebrate and bring attention to the important work of individuals and organizations that live and breathe collaboration to achieve their visions. NGCP selected Krishnamurthi saying she embodies the spirit of collaboration as she naturally shares information and resources that inspire others to be collaborative.

The NGCP also cited Krishnamurthi's belief that the collaborative nature of afterschool programs plays a critically important role in reforming STEM education and that afterschool programs must be treated as strategic partners in STEM education.

NGCP chose Google as its 2012 organizational award recipient. Click [here](#) for more information about NGCP and this year's awards.



*NYC continued from page one...*

cuts "unacceptable," the New York Times [reports](#). The Campaign for Children organized a rally on the steps of City Hall before the news conference.

Scott M. Stringer, the Manhattan borough president, criticized the proposal as "out of touch" with working families. "We should stop this phony budget dance," he told the New York Times, "and stop treating workers as pawns in this annual charade."

A May 4 [New York Times editorial](#) describes afterschool and child care programs "a lifeline for the working poor" and calls on Mayor Bloomberg and the City Council to restore funding and "do more for the city's neediest children."

The Campaign for Children is a partnership of the Emergency Coalition to Save Child Care and the NYC Youth Alliance. The Campaign has [more than 150 partners](#). Join the Campaign for Children [online](#), [watch video from the rallies](#) and learn ways you can help.



**IN THE NEWS**

**ARIZONA**—Middle school students in Tempe are designing models of artificial hearts and water filtration devices and using hydrogen fuel cells to power toy cars as part of a science, technology, engineering and math (STEM) afterschool program with Arizona State University's Graduate College. Doctoral students partnered with area teachers to instruct students. In three years, the afterschool project has expanded from serving 78 students at one school to 250 students in all six of the district's middle schools. Kyrene School Superintendent David K. Schae said, "The kids are so excited about what they are doing—they go home and talk about their learning, they share the experience with their parents. This afterschool program is really how all our school days should look."

**CALIFORNIA**—Fourth- and fifth-grade students at Los Robles Academy in Hacienda Heights marked the end of their six-week rocketry afterschool program by launching their own missiles. Thanks so support from some experts with on-site troubleshooting, each of the student's rockets were launched. Ten-year-old Mario Gonzales told the *San Gabriel Valley Tribune* that his rocket worked well because he was a "good listener." The program was run by the Youth Science Center.

**GEORGIA**—Due to state and federal budget cuts, the Bibb County Teen Scene Youth Center will close next month, and students who participated in its afterschool programs will have to find something else to do after the school day ends. Teen Scene developed a coalition with other programs in the county; Teen Scene director Valerie Hicks hopes some of the teens will be able to continue in those afterschool programs next fall. The state is shuttering all 30 of its teen centers and nine of its adolescent health and youth development programs, the *Macon Telegraph* reports.

**MISSOURI**—Warrensburg afterschool students are learning lessons in sustainability and how to tackle real-life challenges in an afterschool program designed around building a fuel-efficient race car, the *Daily Star-Journal* reports. The students choose who is best at doing each job. For example, a smaller student's size makes him or her a good pick for driving, another student's camera skills help record events, while another student's statistics skills help record gas weight and track times. The team competed in the seventh annual Missouri SuperMileage Challenge last month and came in first.

**NEW JERSEY**—More than 1,000 children from ages 8 to 18 competed for trophies and bragging rights at the South Jersey Youth Alliance Got Game 3-on-3 Basketball Tournament in Vineland earlier this month. The South Jersey Youth Alliance hosts the annual tournament to encourage teens to stay out of trouble and to stress that it's "cool to do the right thing," the *Daily Journal* reports. The group strives to build character in youth through school assemblies, afterschool programs and mentoring.

**NEW YORK**—Afterschool students from the Corning Community YMCA's Clubhouse program walked to Houghton Park last month and cleaned it to celebrate and promote Earth Day. Nicole Graham, youth and family coordinator for the YMCA, told the *Elmira Star-Gazette*, "It will be great for these kids to see the difference they can make by banding together to clean a place that is enjoyed by many in our community."

**PENNSYLVANIA**—More than 50 elementary students in the Salvation Army of Reading's Manana afterschool program showcased their artwork and performances at an art show last month. Jon Van Wyngarden, director of the Salvation Army learning center, told the *Reading Eagle* the afterschool program provides art and other enrichment

programs because “the idea is to offer things the Reading School District is finding increasingly difficult to provide because of school funding issues.”

**VIRGINIA**—The Danville Public Library hosted a “Zombie Prom” for afterschool students on April 26 to encourage young people to read. The students dressed up, complete with oozing fake blood, and danced around the library. The *Danville Register & Bee* reports that the library may have to cut some employees’ hours because of tightening city budgets, but it “shouldn’t affect special projects like the Zombie Prom too much.” Organizers said they are used to creating events and activities to cater to youth on a “shoestring budget.”



## IN MEMORIAM: LARRY DECKER

The afterschool movement lost a fast friend last month with the passing of Larry Decker, one of the early leaders in the community education movement.

In a nearly 50-year collaborative partnership, Larry and his wife, Virginia, became leaders in community education advocacy. They authored many books and articles that influenced the spread of community education nationally and around the world. Larry received the National Community Education Association’s Distinguished Service Award and was one of the initial inductees into the Association’s Hall of Fame.

In addition to his work to promote community education, Larry was a professor at the Department of Educational Leadership and Policy Studies at the University of Virginia in Charlottesville. From 1995 to 2007, he was the C.S. Mott Eminent Scholar in Community Education at Florida Atlantic University in Boca Raton, Florida.

In lieu of flowers, the family requests memorial donations to [The Foundation for Community Education](#). Friends can also leave their condolences [online](#).



## IN THEIR OWN WORDS

“It’s not the notion of extending the day that is alone alarming—although there are right ways and wrong ways to do it—but, rather, how the process was going to be implemented.... Suggestions include adding a whole period, or lengthening existing classes. [New research suggests](#) that neither of those approaches is especially productive for students. In fact, there is research that shows that extended learning efforts are often successful when students are engaged in strong afterschool programs, built around experiential learning—not just more of the same approach kids get in school. Cutting the planning time that teachers need to design lessons, collaborate with their peers and take time to think about what they are doing should be off-limits for any school-day expansion plan.”

—Valerie Strauss, “[How Not to Extend the School Day](#),” *Washington Post*, Answer Sheet blog, April 26, 2012

“When the warm weather comes, most people think of walks in the park and the pleasures of spring. I think of multiple shootings in the parks and the dangers my students will face navigating their neighborhoods. This year has been a particularly brutal one for the small children in my after-school program. Those few weeks of unseasonably warm weather in March brought shootings in the park across the street from one of my schools.... We feel pity for small children in war-ravaged countries. But we need not travel that far. The truth is that my students are living in an urban battlefield and the tragedy is that these children become targets even though they’re not the enemy.... Many of my colleagues,

family members and friends have made suggestions ranging from filling our parks with enough people to crowd out the criminals to more community policing. It seems to me that any real change must come from a collective effort to knit together everyone in all our communities and to employ an arsenal of social services to attack and resolve these problems.... I beg you to join me, my students and their parents, teachers and principals to make our world a more beautiful and better place.”

—Mara Tapp, a Chicago journalist and director of Cool Classics!, an afterschool program in Chicago Public Schools, “[Shots Near an Elementary School](#),” *Chicago Tribune*, April 23, 2012



## FILL UP ON NEWS AT AFTERSCHOOL SNACK!

How successful is afterschool in engaging youth in STEM activities? How can afterschool programs access funding to provide meals? What is the latest news on the reauthorization of the *Elementary and Secondary Education Act*? Find out all this and more in recent *Afterschool Snack* posts, including:

- [Getting Social @ the Afterschool for All Challenge](#)
- [Guest Blog: Community Partners Are Key](#)
- [Afterschool Programs Participate in USA Science and Engineering Festival](#)
- [Welcome to a New Ally](#)

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](#).



## RESOURCES

### 21st CCLC Fact Sheet

The Afterschool Alliance has released an updated version of its 21st Century Community Learning Centers (21st CCLC) [fact sheet](#). It contains data on students served, program profiles, outcomes and benefits associated with afterschool participation, and information on the status of 21st CCLC funding. Download the new fact sheet [here](#).

### 21st CCLC Research Update

The [Harvard Family Resource Project](#) has released the latest issue in its [Research Update series](#) focusing on reviews of evaluations and research studies that showcase innovations in afterschool programs supported by 21st CCLC funding.

The *Update* focuses on three areas of innovation:

- promoting academic achievement;
- evaluating and continuously improving major out-of-school-time (OST) initiatives; and
- providing high-quality OST experiences for youth.

Download [Research Update 8: 21st Century Community Learning Centers—Stable Funding for Innovation and Continuous Improvement](#) now.

### Expanded Learning Opportunities

The [NEA Foundation](#) has released a [new report](#) on lessons from union-district expanded learning opportunity (ELO) collaborations. Given the relative newness of many ELO programs and activities, there is just a thin research base examining how effective ELOs are spearheaded, developed, administered and governed. The cases and analyses presented in the NEA Foundation’s newest report, [Expanding Learning Opportunities to Close the Achievement Gaps: Lessons from Union-District Collaborations](#), provide examples of ELO programs, including afterschool and summer learning, that have been jointly designed and

collaboratively operated by leaders from the school district, teachers' union and community. [Download](#) the report and share it broadly.



## MARK YOUR CALENDARS...

### **June 27-29, 2012**

Join thousands of education, policy and industry thought leaders, including Afterschool Alliance Executive Director Jodi Grant and STEM Policy Director Anita Krishnamurthi, in Dallas for [STEM Solutions 2012](#). The groundbreaking leadership summit will bring the best minds and best practices together on a national stage to open the conversation and develop solutions to the STEM (science, technology, engineering and math) skills shortage. The conference has a [specific track](#) dedicated to education and America's STEM future. More information is available [online](#), and be sure to use the code ASA002 when you register to get a special afterschool program rate.

### **July 23-27, 2012**

The National Institute on Out-of-School Time will host its Summer Seminars in Boston at the Wellesley Centers for Women. The seminars will offer professional development opportunities for those working in afterschool, out-of-school time, youth development, education or related fields. Workshops will address using the Afterschool Program Assessment System, systems building in a new age of education reform, using data to improve programs, promoting healthy eating and active out-of-school time, and more. Click [here](#) for more information.

### **July 30-August 1, 2012**

Registration is open for the 21st Century Community Learning Centers' (21st CCLC) 2012 [Summer Institute](#), taking place this year in New Orleans, La. This year's theme, "Gateway to the Future: Supporting the Next Generation of Learners in 21st CCLC Programs," captures the direction of the program as the U.S. Department of Education strives to develop afterschool activities that include and support President Obama's education goals and initiatives. Speakers and presenters will share invaluable experiences and insight related to developing, implementing and sustaining afterschool programs today and into the future. The agenda offers a selection of more than 100 interactive breakout sessions, which include new and innovative ideas for activities, technical assistance for managing programs, and strategies and data on afterschool programming. [Register online](#) today. Email [21stCCLC@seiservices.com](mailto:21stCCLC@seiservices.com) or call 240-485-1700, ext. 3609, with questions.

### **October 18, 2012**

The Afterschool Alliance will sponsor the 13th 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. Be a part of it! For more information, to plan a *Lights On Afterschool* event or share your plans, and to sign up for free materials, 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, jcpenny Afterschool Fund, Open Society Institute/The After-School Corporation, the Entertainment Industry Foundation and the Creative Artists Agency Foundation.

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