



## ONE IN FIVE NEW ENGLAND CHILDREN UNSUPERVISED AFTER SCHOOL

Across New England, one in five children has no safe, supervised activity after the school day ends. The lack of adult supervision means these children are left to take care of themselves at a time of day when juvenile crime peaks, and when a range of inappropriate behaviors beckon, including drugs and alcohol, gangs and teen sex. Those are among the findings of *New England After 3 PM*, a new report from the Afterschool Alliance that was released in conjunction with the Massachusetts Governor's Afterschool Summit in Boston.

While much work remains to be done before families' need for afterschool programs is met, New England nevertheless is showing signs of seizing national leadership in providing afterschool for all, the report says. Through regional commitment and cooperation, the area's schoolchildren could one day have the best afterschool opportunities in the nation.

Made possible by support from the Nellie Mae Education Foundation, the report is the first ever to focus on afterschool across New England. It was released in late May after Massachusetts Governor Mitt Romney's Afterschool Summit in Boston. The event featured experts from all six New England states, as well as Nellie Mae Education Foundation President and CEO Blenda Wilson.

*New England continued on page three...*

## LIGHTS ON AFTERSCHOOL 2006

*Lights on Afterschool* will be Thursday, October 12<sup>th</sup> this year! It is the only nationwide event celebrating afterschool programs. Last year's event included 7,500 rallies. Help us grow this event and send the message that afterschool programs keep kids safe, inspire them to learn, and help working families! *Go to [www.afterschoolalliance.org/lights\\_on/index.cfm](http://www.afterschoolalliance.org/lights_on/index.cfm) for tools and information, and check back often for updates.*

You can also use *Lights On* to raise money. Events offer sponsors valuable exposure to the media, families and customers, along with the chance to show they care about the community. The Afterschool Alliance has created tools to help. *Visit [Funding Tools](http://www.afterschoolalliance.org) at [www.afterschoolalliance.org](http://www.afterschoolalliance.org), or [www.afterschoolalliance.org/funding\\_main.cfm](http://www.afterschoolalliance.org/funding_main.cfm) to see 10 Tips for Getting (and Keeping) Sponsors, and 32 Ways to Give Sponsors Exposure at your Lights On Afterschool Event.*

*Do you have questions about using Lights On Afterschool to raise funds? Do you have a success story to share regarding how you secured funding for your program through Lights On? Email your questions and success stories to [info@afterschoolalliance.org](mailto:info@afterschoolalliance.org) by August 11. The Afterschool Alliance will post responses to your questions and share relevant success stories on August 15<sup>th</sup> at [www.afterschoolalliance.org/funding\\_forum.cfm](http://www.afterschoolalliance.org/funding_forum.cfm).*

## LAWMAKER OUTREACH

*The week of July 17, the Senate Appropriations Committee will consider the Labor-Health & Human Services-Education (LHHS-Ed) bill, which funds 21<sup>st</sup> Century Community Learning Centers. This bill is the best chance to win any increase in funding for afterschool programs next year. Many important programs are facing cuts or even elimination next year, and even with the \$5 billion the Senate Appropriations Committee added above the President's budget request, Senators will not be able to restore many programs to their FY 2005 levels.*

*Advocates can make a real difference by urging both their Senators to support afterschool programs in the LHHS-Ed appropriation next week. A sample letter follows. Please tailor it to reflect your experience and perspective. You can send emails through the Afterschool Alliance website, at [www.afterschoolalliance.org](http://www.afterschoolalliance.org), by clicking on the blue Contact Congress box on the left. Phone calls are especially effective; the Capitol switchboard is 202/224-3121.*

The Honorable [Name]  
United States Senate  
Washington, D.C. 20510

Dear [Senator Name]:

As an afterschool professional in [Anytown], I ask you to increase funding for the 21<sup>st</sup> Century Community Learning Centers afterschool initiative in the FY 2007 Labor-HHS-Education bill.

Afterschool programs are critical to children and families in [Anytown] and across [Minnesota]. The program I direct at [Calvin Coolidge Middle School] serves [325] children each weekday afternoon. We keep them safe; provide them with tutoring, homework help, and other academic assistance; and engage them in constructive, adult-supervised activities. Our parents know that, when their children are with us, they're being helped along the path to success in school and life.

Unfortunately, federal funding for afterschool programs is now more than \$1 billion behind the level authorized in the *No Child Left Behind Act*. Several years of level-funding and small cuts have resulted in programs across our state being forced to reduce hours, serve fewer children or close their doors.

Research by the Afterschool Alliance has shown that just 6.5 million children are in afterschool programs nationwide, while the parents of another 15.3 million children say their children would participate if an afterschool program were available. Without an increase in funding, more children will spend their afternoons home alone or on the street.

Afterschool is a wise investment in the future. I urge you to increase funding for the 21<sup>st</sup> Century Community Learning Centers afterschool initiative. Thank you very much.

Sincerely,  
Name, Title, Program

*New England continued from page one...*

According to *New England After 3 PM*:

- Only 14 percent of New England schoolchildren (just over 347,600) participate in afterschool programs, while 22 percent (just over 546,200) are alone and unsupervised during the hours after school.
- Unmet demand for afterschool across the region is high; the parents of more than 640,000 New England children would sign their children up for afterschool if a program were available.
- The overwhelming majority of parents of children in afterschool programs approve of the care their children receive: 88 percent of New England parents are extremely or somewhat satisfied with the afterschool program their child attends.

“We’re hoping New England policy makers will recognize the merit of working together as a region to make afterschool available to all children, and set a brisk pace for the rest of the nation,” said Afterschool Alliance Executive Director Jodi Grant. “Working separately, the states have made good progress and, indeed, only California is outpacing the region as a whole. But there’s much more to do.”

*New England After 3 PM* identifies a number of successful afterschool initiatives in the region, including Citizen Schools, BELL and SquashBusters in Massachusetts; Providence Afterschool Alliance, Afterzones and Community Schools in Rhode Island; Out of School Matters! in New Hampshire; and the EdGE in Maine. *To view the report, visit [www.afterschoolalliance.org/NE\\_after\\_3pm.pdf](http://www.afterschoolalliance.org/NE_after_3pm.pdf).*



## TEXAS AFTERSCHOOL STUDENTS WIN TORANI ART CONTEST

This fall, Torani Cherry and French Vanilla syrups will sport new, limited-edition art labels designed by Cooperative for After-School Enrichment students Alejandra Garcia, 10, of Crockett Elementary and Alina Arevalo, 8, of Sherman Elementary, both in Houston. The students’ artwork was selected from hundreds of entries submitted by afterschool students around the country. Torani, the number one specialty syrup maker in North America, will donate five percent of the product’s sales from August through December to the Afterschool Alliance.

Both children entered the contest through their afterschool programs. Arevalo, a quiet second-grader, was inspired to paint her winning picture by her afterschool teacher. “I feel so happy,” she said about winning. “I was thinking that a flower would be nice to put on a bottle because they might like it. It’s nice to look at flowers and they smell good. I think [my painting] is pretty.”

Sherman Elementary Principal Emilia Cardenas says the afterschool program plays an important role in her students’ lives. “I love the program because they’re not out on the streets or going home to watch TV all afternoon while their parents are at work...[at the afterschool program] we try to find their hidden talents.”

In honor of the young artists, Torani sponsored Italian soda and pizza parties at both afterschool programs, giving the girls a further opportunity to enjoy their newfound fame. Garcia was excited about the party being thrown in her honor. She said she really enjoys her afterschool program and that she “like[s] it most because, after we do our homework, we can have fun.”

This is the second year that Torani has sponsored an Art on Labels contest in support of afterschool. Last year, the winners were from afterschool programs in Tucson,

Arizona and Fort Worth, Texas. For more information on Torani, visit [www.torani.com](http://www.torani.com).



## YOUTH ADVOCATE FOR AFTERSCHOOL

While afterschool advocates of all ages spoke out at the fifth annual *Afterschool for All Challenge* in Washington DC this spring, many of the youngest supporters – those who benefit most directly from afterschool programs – carried their messages furthest through the halls of Congress. Emily Walden, 11, of Lander, Wyoming, and Nicole Lasky, 18, of Albuquerque, New Mexico, took great pride in coming to Washington, D.C. to tell lawmakers about the powerful role afterschool has played in their lives.

Walden, who will be in seventh grade this fall, told lawmakers she loves the Power Hour where she gets help with her homework, and enjoys the speed-stacking activities at her program. “If there was no program, I would go home alone and try to figure out my homework on my own,” she said. Walden enjoyed visiting the city, citing the dome at the Capital as her favorite landmark. Her trip was sponsored by Washington Partners, LLC, a full service government affairs and public relations consulting firm.

Lasky, a youth leader in her community in Albuquerque, traveled to Washington with Lanny Leyba of the New Mexico Forum for Youth. Lasky delivered presentations before state leaders and youth advocates at the *Challenge* and offered advice to both groups on how to incorporate youth into afterschool advocacy efforts. Their trip was sponsored by Winning Connections, a Washington, DC-based grassroots advocacy firm.

### Youth Advocates Share Views

In addition to Walden and Lasky, more than 60 other young people traveled to Washington to tell lawmakers what their

afterschool programs mean to them, their siblings, parents and friends. These budding advocates gathered in the Youth Lounge, where they honed their advocacy skills, met with peers from across the nation, and prepared to talk with congressional leaders about why afterschool programs matter to youth.

Ranging in age from 10 to 19, some youth advocates shared their views on afterschool in an informal survey, and many said getting extra homework help and attention from staff were significant benefits offered by afterschool programs. Erika, 10, said that her afterschool program offers her “more time to think about what happened in school... to do my homework and get help right there.” Nicke, 15, said that afterschool staff “spend time making sure that I understand what is being taught.”

Survey participants also felt that their afterschool programs improved their self-confidence and leadership skills. No doubt these skills came in handy when discussing the benefits of their programs with their Senators and Representatives at the *Challenge*!



## ADVOCATES SPUR GROWTH OF AFTERSCHOOL CAUCUSES

Since afterschool advocates met with Members of Congress in May at the *Afterschool for All Challenge*, ten members of Congress have joined the Afterschool Caucuses: Senators Thad Cochran (R-MS), Jack Reed (D-RI) and Joe Lieberman (D-CT), as well as Representatives John Boozman (R-AR), Jeb Bradley (R-NH), James Langevin (D-RI), John Lewis (D-GA), Tim Ryan (D-OH), Robert Simmons (R-CT), and Joe Wilson (R-SC).

Congratulations to advocates from these states who worked so diligently to get the new Members to join! Go to [www.afterschoolalliance.org/caucuses.cfm](http://www.afterschoolalliance.org/caucuses.cfm) to

see if your Senators and Representative are Caucus members. If not, please contact their offices and encourage them to join and show their support for afterschool.



## IN THEIR OWN WORDS...

“The most important thing we can actually do right now is preventatives, including more afterschool programs for our middle-school children.”

--At-Large Councilwoman Sue Lovell,  
*Houston Chronicle*, June 11, 2006

“Many people believe kids are most likely to get in trouble at night or on the weekends, but it is really the afterschool hours that law enforcement worries about.”

-- Sacramento, California Police Chief Albert Najera, *Inside Bay Area*, June 21, 2006

“The time between kids getting home from school and parents getting home from work is the worst time for them to get into trouble and get pregnant. This program has had an enormous positive effect not only on residents but also on the community... More programs of this nature are needed, not just in the projects, but throughout the city.”

-- St. Clair County Circuit Judge Milton Wharton, on the Griffin Center afterschool program, *Belleville News-Democrat*, June 25, 2006



## JOIN THE DATABASE OF HIGH-QUALITY LEARNING PROGRAMS

Learning Point Associates is seeking submissions from afterschool programs that

offer innovative and high-quality learning activities that complement the lessons of the school day, to be entered into a national database of high quality programs. The initiative is sponsored by a grant from the C.S. Mott Foundation.

Afterschool programs selected as winners will gain national recognition through a calendar and website. In addition, all entries are eligible for \$50 gift certificates, chosen at random. For an activity or program to be considered for inclusion in the database, it must demonstrate the following criteria: engagement, capacity, and continuity.

*Please visit*

[www.learningpt.org/page.php?pageID=212](http://www.learningpt.org/page.php?pageID=212)  
for more information. Applicants can also get information from K.C. Diedrich at [kc.diedrich@learningpt.org](mailto:kc.diedrich@learningpt.org) or 312/288-7610.



## AFTERSCHOOL PROFILE: CHILDREN'S MUSEUM OF PITTSBURGH VOLUNTEEN PROGRAM

Summers are a busy time at the Children's Museum of Pittsburgh – and not just on the exhibit floor. Like so many organizations that provide afterschool programs during the regular school year, the Museum runs a related summer program. But at the Museum, there's a twist: while child and adult visitors are flocking to the rich array of hands-on, interactive exhibits, participants in the Museum's Summer VolunTEEN program take part in a program that mixes fun and learning with volunteer work.

The program serves between 20 and 25 high school students from across the Pittsburgh area – including students from low-income neighborhoods in the city, middle and upper income suburban communities and rural areas on the outskirts of town. “It's fabulous that we get teens from all over together in this very nurturing environment,”

says Youth Programs Manager Alana Kulesa. “There’s a territoriality here: If you’re in this school you don’t talk to kids in that school. But our program really mixes a diverse group of students in a challenging and fun way, and a lot of kids who wouldn’t ordinarily have made eye contact with each other become friends.”

Over the course of the summer, teens in the program work at a variety of tasks in the museum – in visitors’ services, helping with exhibits and more. Once a week, they join workshops aimed at helping them develop a variety of useful skills, including job readiness sessions, where they learn how to write a resume and how to present well in a job interview; study skills seminars on how to prepare for tests and improve study skills; and classes in various real-life skills, such as how to manage personal finances.

VolunTEENs also help out with the Museum’s outreach efforts in the community, spreading the word at festivals and elsewhere. The program also includes a monthly outing just for fun, to play miniature golf, visit a waterslide park, or take in a Pittsburgh Pirates baseball game.

The program is primarily aimed at high school students, but because the Museum’s afterschool program during the regular school year serves middle schoolers, Kulesa involves a handful of the afterschool children in the summer program. “It’s a good way for the younger kids to stay involved with programs through the entire year. And the high school kids really get along well with them. A lot of the older kids take the younger ones under their wing. But at the same time, it’s empowering for the middle school kids, because they know the museum a lot better, and get to do some teaching of their own, which for a 13-year-old is a really fabulous thing!”

Funding for the program comes largely from the United Way, as part of its support for the Museum’s youth programs. The Museum charges participants nothing, although it does solicit parents for

contributions in case any are able and disposed to give. On the other side of the ledger, the program delivers hundreds of hours of comparatively inexpensive labor for the Museum. The program is also a great proving ground for future employees and, indeed, a number of summer participants have gone on to take jobs in the Museum.

Kulesa says that many program participants return in subsequent summers, and often volunteer during the school year as well. She also notes that the friendships participants develop during the summer often last through the year, allowing children from very different parts of the Pittsburgh area to become and remain friends. Kulesa helps keep those connections alive with regular email contact throughout the year.

“The kids really embrace the opportunity,” Kulesa says. “A lot of them see it as a chance to give something back. And there’s no doubt that it helps them in lots of ways – giving them practical work experience, or something interesting for their college applications. But I think all of them get something useful out of it, and we just love having them with us.”



## IN THE NEWS...

**National** – President George W. Bush announced a countrywide commitment to America’s children, proclaiming June 4, 2006 as National Child’s Day, reports *US Federal News*. The White House encouraged volunteers to work with afterschool programs and mentor youth through USA Freedom Corps. In honor of National Child’s Day, the President urged adults to “take an active role in helping nurture the minds and character of our Nation’s children.”

**California** – By pairing rescued horses with children who have experienced crises, ranging from parental separation to critical illness, the SonRise Equestrian Foundation proves the

healing power of horses. A project of the National Heritage Foundation, the free program organizes meetings of children twice a week after school, reports the *Contra Costa Times*. Held at CW Training Stables in Castro Valley, each student is teamed with a mentor to learn the basics of riding and caring for rescued horses. *For information, visit [www.SonRiseEquestrianFoundation.org](http://www.SonRiseEquestrianFoundation.org).*

**Florida** – The Stuart Middle School’s Career Apprenticeship Program gives select eighth-graders the chance to develop work experience, acquire job skills, and gain confidence – while earning \$6.40 per hour, reports the *Palm Beach Post*. The program pairs students with regional employers to nurture talents that may go ignored in a traditional school setting. It provides training to prepare students for work, covering everything from good work habits to dressing properly in the workplace. “We need to encourage our youth and prepare them for the future. I think this program is a good vehicle to do that,” said program mentor Tom Lucido of Lucido and Associates.

**Louisiana** – With children struggling to cope with the emotional and physical turmoil from Hurricane Katrina, the Children’s Defense Fund (CDF) is providing help. The CDF is bringing afterschool programs to New Orleans, providing a desperately needed safe haven for students to learn and play while parents are at work. According to *People* magazine, Hollywood celebrities volunteered their support by attending the grand opening of New Orleans’ first Freedom School, the site for these afterschool programs. The CDF intends to open 12 more Freedom facilities to provide a daylong program for students during the summertime. *For information, go to [www.childrensdefense.org](http://www.childrensdefense.org).*

**Pennsylvania** - Mayor Bob O’Connor is encouraging Northview Heights residents to literally march to the beat of their own drums at the Creative Arts Corner, where

participants can learn to record CDs, create videos, mix sound, dance and make commercials. An initiative of the Pittsburgh Housing Authority, the Creative Arts Corner provides an outlet to inspire students after school. Keith Kinnard, director of the Housing Authority, offers free classes at the Creative Arts Corner to eligible youth. Kinnard told the *Pittsburgh Post-Gazette* he has contacted nearby schools “in an effort to link the creative work kids do in school to the projects they undertake in the studio in their neighborhood.”

**Virginia** – Thomas Hunter Middle School’s Bug Brainiacs, an afterschool entomology club in Newport News, persuades youngsters not to be squeamish in order to get an up-close-and-personal look at different insects. Headed by 4-H leader Beverly Holmberg and local beekeeper Jean Howard, this program gives middle-schoolers hands-on experience analyzing the structure, classification and behavior of insects. Students conduct observations in the school’s very own science lab, a freshwater pond erected in the courtyard. According to the *Daily Press*, the students’ enthusiasm has encouraged Holmberg and Howard to continue Bug Brainiacs meetings throughout the summer.



## RESOURCES

### Increasing Media Awareness and Encouraging Good Health

The National Institute of Child Health and Human Development has a new program geared toward educating 11 to 13 year olds about how the media influences the choices they make. Media-Smart Youth: Eat, Think, and Be Active! focuses on media awareness, media production, nutrition and physical activity. This health promotion program encourages children to think critically about the images they are presented with and how these images can affect their decisions about

nutrition. For information on the program, visit [www.nichd.nih.gov/msy](http://www.nichd.nih.gov/msy). To order a free kit, please contact [NICDHIInformationResourceCenter@mail.nih.gov](mailto:NICDHIInformationResourceCenter@mail.nih.gov) or call 1-800-370-2943.

### **Publication Highlights Promising Practices, Afterschool Programs**

The Southwest Educational Development Laboratory (SEDL) recently released the SEDL Letter, Time for Achievement Afterschool and Out-of-School Time. It focuses exclusively on afterschool programs. The publication explores promising practices, the role of reading programs in afterschool, and the future of federal funding for afterschool. It provides an in-depth examination of successful, quality programs. *The SEDL Letter is available at [www.sedl.org/pubs/sedl-letter/](http://www.sedl.org/pubs/sedl-letter/).*



### **FOR ONCE, TEACHERS CAN ENCOURAGE A CIRCUS IN THEIR CLASSROOMS**

The Ringling Bros. Barnum and Bailey Circus is helping to fight childhood obesity with a new program called CircusFit, which aims to include youngsters in the three ring spectacle. Afterschool programs participating in the national youth fitness initiative are urged to encourage clowning around.

CircusFit provides free educational resources on the Internet, including practice modules for instructors and their students to tackle on their own. Geared for kids in second through fifth grades, CircusFit exercises are increasingly difficult and are supplemented with tidbits on how to properly hydrate, stretch and breathe. The culminating lesson shows youngsters how to incorporate all the techniques they have learned into their very own show. Kelly James Ballagh, a circus performer, told the *San Antonio Express-News*, "CircusFit teaches the

fundamentals of fitness, with an emphasis on fun."

In addition, circus performers visit schools and community recreation facilities, demonstrating different techniques involved in their acts. The performers show students how to incorporate these skills into their own customized fitness routines. *View CircusFit's educational curriculum online at [www.CircusFit.com](http://www.CircusFit.com).*

### **AFTERSCHOOL FOR ALL: PROJECT 2010**

Every day, more Americans are coming together through *Afterschool for All: Project 2010* to endorse the goal that all children should have access to afterschool programs by the year 2010. Currently, more than 3,300 partners have lent support to *Project 2010*. New partners from the past month include: Children's Services Council of West Palm Beach, Mayor Garret Nancolas of Caldwell, Indiana, and the University of Kentucky's Cooperative Extension.

We want to make sure that *Project 2010* continues to be a useful resource for its partners. For example, did you know that you could use the search features on the *Project 2010* website to identify local partners to engage in afterschool outreach? Simply visit the *Project 2010* website, search for partners in your area, and call to introduce yourself: "I noticed that you are listed as a supporter of *Afterschool for All: Project 2010*. Thank you for your service as our Chief of Police, and for signing onto *Afterschool for All: Project 2010*. I'd love to talk to you about how we can partner keep our kids safe."

It's an easy and simple way to broaden your organization's social network. For helpful hints, visit [www.afterschool2010.org](http://www.afterschool2010.org). And don't forget to ask your friends, colleagues and neighbors to become *Project 2010* partners at: [www.afterschool2010.org/join.cfm](http://www.afterschool2010.org/join.cfm). Every voice counts!





## FUNDING OPPORTUNITIES

### Pro-Bono Marketing Opportunity

Nonprofit afterschool programs that have a corporate sponsor can apply for the “It’s How We Live” Grant, sponsored by Bemporad Baranowski Marketing Group (BBMG), a New York-based marketing agency dedicated to promoting socially responsible brands. The grant, worth \$100,000 in in-kind services, will provide strategy, message and campaign materials developed by BBMG representatives to launch a marketing campaign for the winning organization and its corporate partner. The application deadline is July 31. *For more information and to apply, go to [www.itshowwelve.com](http://www.itshowwelve.com).*

### Grants to Restore or Build Community Football Fields

The NFL Youth Football Fund Grassroots Program is offering grants to support the construction of safe and accessible football fields in neighborhoods with low- to moderate-income households. Schools and organizations that are located in NFL “target market” areas may apply. For further information, contact Beverly Smith at 212/455-9881 or [bsmith@lisc.org](mailto:bsmith@lisc.org). *More information is also available online at <http://www.lisc.org/section/areas/sec3/youth>.*

### Grants for Youth Environmental Leaders

The Civil Society Institute and Youth Service America are offering \$500 grants to youth leaders age 15 to 25 to create community service projects that address climate change. As part of the Red, White and Green Youth Action Campaign that focuses on increasing youth involvement in the climate change issue in advance of the 2008 presidential election, grant recipients will travel to Washington D.C. in the fall of 2007 to present their findings and public policy recommendations to policy makers and presidential candidates. Grant applications are due September 1. *For*

*information, visit*

*[www.ysa.org/awards/award\\_grant.cfm#nowa](http://www.ysa.org/awards/award_grant.cfm#nowa) available.*

### Grants for Afterschool Environmental Excellence

SeaWorld, Busch Gardens and Fujifilm are accepting nominations for the Environmental Excellence Awards. Eight projects undertaken by youth groups that aim to protect the environment will be awarded \$10,000 each, and one educator will be awarded \$5,000. A select number of students from each winning group will also win a visit to a theme park. The deadline for nominations is November 30. *For information, contact 877/792-4332 or visit <http://www.swbg-animals.org/conservation-matters/eea>.*



## MARK YOUR CALENDAR


### July 17 - 20, 2006

The National Institute on Out-of-School Time (NIOST) will hold its annual Summer Seminars for afterschool program professionals at the John Hancock Conference Center in Boston. Seminars will offer technical assistance and training and will address issues including professional and organizational development, leadership, funding, curriculum design and quality improvements. *For information, visit [www.niost.org/training/sumsem06.html](http://www.niost.org/training/sumsem06.html) or call 781/283-2546.*

### July 27 – 28, 2006

The America’s Promise Alliance will host regional forums to share best practices and encourage greater collaboration within communities to see that all young people have the fundamental resources they need to succeed. This regional forum will take place in Providence, Rhode Island. Other forums will be held in Charlotte, North Carolina; Indianapolis, Indiana; and Denver, Colorado

this fall. *For information and to register, visit [www.americaspromise.org/100Best/regionalforums.cfm](http://www.americaspromise.org/100Best/regionalforums.cfm).*

 **July 27 – 29, 2006**


The Community Technology Centers' Network (CTCNet) will host the 15<sup>th</sup> Annual Community Technology Conference in Washington, DC. The conference includes training workshops, sessions and panels, plus the chance to network with more than 500 individuals in the field of community technology. Afterschool providers and youth development workers are encouraged to attend. *For information, visit [www.ctcnet.org/what/conference](http://www.ctcnet.org/what/conference).*

 **September 20 – 22, 2006**

The North Carolina Center for Afterschool Programs (NC CAP) will host its annual statewide summit, "SYNERGY: Windows of Opportunity," at the Joseph S. Koury Convention Center in Greensboro. *For information, visit [www.nccap.net/about/conference.cfm](http://www.nccap.net/about/conference.cfm).*

 **December 4 – 7, 2006**

The National Association of Workforce Development Professionals, the Great Lakes Employment Training Association and the National Youth Employment Coalition are sponsoring the 7<sup>th</sup> Annual National Youth Development Symposium in Chicago, Illinois. Last year's symposium drew more than 600 workforce development, youth development, and education professionals from across the country. The symposium is currently accepting workshop proposals in the following areas: engaging, educating and employing youth. *Applications are due by August 14 and are available at <http://www.nawdp.org/2006YouthSymposiumCallForProposals.doc>. For further information, visit <http://www.nawdp.org/youthsymposium.htm>.*

 **November 29 – December 2, 2006**

The National Community Education Association will hold its Annual Conference at the Nugget Hotel in Reno, Nevada. *Please visit [www.ncea.com/meetingsandconferences.aspx](http://www.ncea.com/meetingsandconferences.aspx) for information and to register.*

***More information on upcoming conferences and events is available at [www.afterschoolalliance.org/states/calendar\\_main.cfm](http://www.afterschoolalliance.org/states/calendar_main.cfm).***

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The Afterschool Alliance is a nonprofit public awareness and advocacy organization supported by a group of public, private, and nonprofit entities working to ensure that all children and youth have access to afterschool programs by 2010. 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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