



THE LIGHTS WILL BE ON FOR AFTERSCHOOL THURSDAY



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LIGHTING PARTNER

The lights will be on for afterschool from coast to coast on October 18, when a million people rally at more than 7,500 schools, community centers, parks, city halls, shopping centers and other venues across the country for the afterschool programs that keep kids safe, inspire them to learn and help working families. As part of the only national rally for afterschool, New York City's Empire State Building will light up in yellow lights for the first time ever to commemorate *Lights On Afterschool*.

"We are absolutely delighted that the Empire State Building is part of *Lights On Afterschool* this year," said Jodi Grant, Executive Director of the Afterschool Alliance, which organizes the event. "It seems fitting that such an important national symbol is supporting afterschool programs, which do so much to help children, families, businesses and communities. Local *Lights On Afterschool* events give youth a chance to showcase the skills and talents acquired at their afterschool programs, and to send the message that millions more children need afterschool programs." More than 14 million children have no place to go after the school day ends.

Kick-off events have begun. Already this month, the Los Angeles Unified School District's Beyond the Bell Branch held a massive *Lights On Afterschool* event with some 5,000 students, the South Carolina

Afterschool Alliance held a rally in Columbia featuring representatives of presidential candidates from both political parties, and afterschool partners in Evansville, Indiana transformed Bosse Field, where "A League of Their Own," was filmed, into an afterschool extravaganza.

Hundreds of mayors and other elected officials, school board members, business leaders, coaches and athletes, and other luminaries are scheduled to participate in *Lights On Afterschool* events, which will take place in every state and at military bases from Elmendorf, Alaska to Osan, South Korea.

"Cheers" star Rhea Perlman is a spokesperson for *Lights On Afterschool* again this year, and comedian Wayne Brady, who hosts Fox's "Don't Forget the Lyrics," is scheduled to speak at an event in Cincinnati, Ohio.

Lights On Afterschool 2007 also kicks off a year-long celebration of the 10th anniversary of 21st Century Community Learning Centers, the chief federal funding stream for afterschool programs.

California Governor Arnold Schwarzenegger is National Chair of *Lights On Afterschool* again this year, a position he has held since 2001.

It's not too late to participate! To learn more about Lights On Afterschool, register your event, get tips and tools for last-minute planning or to engage the media, or to find a rally in your community, visit http://afterschoolalliance.org/lights_on/index.cfm.



OUTREACH

Missouri Governor Blunt Puts New Funds into Afterschool

Advocates who have worked closely with Governor Matt Blunt are applauding new afterschool grants he announced this fall. On September 21, the Governor visited Shepard Elementary School in St. Louis to announce \$1 million in grants to expand math, science, engineering, technology and health-related afterschool programs in the state. Taking effect in the '07-'08 school year, the grants will benefit 98 schools statewide.

“Afterschool programs provide Missouri’s students a safe environment where they can grow academically, socially, physically and emotionally,” Governor Blunt said. “I am excited to see how Shepard Elementary School and other schools across the state will use this new funding to support quality afterschool programs that focus on math and science to prepare our students for the challenges of the global economy as well as programs focused on health and wellness.”

The Governor joined St. Louis Mayor Francis Slay a few days later to recognize and commend the After School for All Partnership in St. Louis as it announced 27 new or expanded afterschool programs at public as well as private schools, recreation centers and other sites. The new programs will service nearly 1,300 students each day.

Afterschool for All Update

This month, *Lights On Afterschool* is bringing together everyone from parents to teachers, youth, community organizations and businesses to celebrate the important role that afterschool programs play in our communities. In honor of *Lights On Afterschool*, the Afterschool Alliance is inviting everyone to sign on to *Afterschool for All*, a national petition for afterschool programs.

Across the nation, more than 28 million children have parents who work outside the home. Without quality, affordable afterschool programs, many of these youth would be home alone and unsupervised when the school day ends. The new “28 in 08” effort aims to reach 28,000 partners through the *Afterschool for All* petition by fall 2008.

You can help make it happen! Set an *Afterschool for All* community challenge and hold a community signing ceremony at your local *Lights On Afterschool* event this October. *Free templates for petitions are available at: www.afterschool2010.org/petition.cfm.*

For great tips and more ideas on how to incorporate Afterschool for All in your Lights On event, go to http://www.afterschoolalliance.org/lights_on/project_2010.cfm. Afterschool for All has close to 16,000 partners to date. Contact Marie Coichy, Project Manager of Afterschool for All, with questions or comments at: mcoichy@afterschoolalliance.org or 646/943-8662.



FUNDING NEWS

The Afterschool Alliance has numerous resources on its website for afterschool providers, including tips for initiating relationships with funders and businesses, and for identifying funding opportunities. Visit www.afterschoolalliance.org/funding_main.cfm.

GRANTS/AWARDS AVAILABLE

Awards for Innovative Youth Programs in US South

The Southern Growth Policies Board is sponsoring 2008 Innovator Awards that honor initiatives promoting youth engagement and leadership in the region. Programs should be unique or highly unusual and should target youth between 14 and 24 years old. Applicants must be from Southern Growth's member states – Alabama, Arkansas, Georgia, Kentucky, Louisiana, Mississippi, Missouri, North Carolina, Oklahoma, South Carolina, Tennessee, Virginia and West Virginia. The nomination deadline is October 22. For more information, visit <http://www.southern.org/innovators/innovators.shtml>.

Grants Promoting Youth Literacy

The National Education Association and Youth Service America are sponsoring Youth Leaders for Literacy grants, which encourage young people to develop projects that promote literacy among youth in their communities during a six week period. Twenty grants of \$500 each will be awarded to youth age 21 and younger for their literacy projects. Projects may include "read aloud" sessions, trips to the library, book-making, and similar activities. The application deadline is October 26. For more information, visit <http://www.nea.org/readacross/volunteer/index.html>.

Grants to Help Children Develop Creativity

The LEGO Children's Fund is sponsoring grants that foster children's creativity and learning skills through constructive play. The grants are available to non-profit organizations that encourage creativity and problem solving through technology and communications projects, sports and athletic programs, or early childhood development. Grant applications are reviewed on a quarterly basis, with the next application deadline on November 1. For more information, visit www.legochildrensfund.org.

Grants to Promote Intergenerational Relationships and Photography

The Intergenerational Photography Contest, administered by Generations United and the MetLife Foundation, is offering seed grants for projects that promote youth and seniors collaborating on photography projects. The photographs will be submitted to the 2008 Intergenerational Photography Contest. The five grants of up to \$2,000 each also bring technical assistance. The application deadline is November 1. For more information, visit http://www.gu.org/IG_Ph9211636.asp.



PROVIDENCE MAYOR DISCUSSES AFTERSCHOOL

Mayor David N. Cicilline, whose leadership has helped make Providence, Rhode Island a national leader in afterschool programs, is the featured interview subject in the summer edition of the Annenberg Institute for School Reform's *Voices in Urban Education*. In the interview, available online and complete with audio excerpts, Mayor Cicilline discusses the origins of his afterschool initiative, and his views on the push to extend the school day.

"[W]hat I think we had ignored for many, many years in this city and, actually, in many cities around the country," he says, "was this other resource of out-of-school time – because a child who goes to school every single day, who has perfect attendance, still spends most of his time out of school, and to not make maximum use of that resource was a big mistake.... So I saw this as an opportunity to create a sense of community responsibility for the healthy development of our kids, a way to extend learning opportunities, a way to improve the safety of young people in the city, and a way to support the rapid acceleration of student achievement by leveraging out-of-school time to support the work that was being done in school...."

"I've avoided using the term 'extending the school day' because I think it's more than that. I think there is no question we have to develop ways to extend instruction time and time on task, in the classroom, with a teacher. There is no question about that. But we also have to extend the day for which the community is responsible for the healthy development of our kids, from earlier in the morning before they begin school to five or six o'clock at night when they go home for dinner. And that is in additional academic programs, it's in additional recreational activities, and it's in different high quality out-of-school-time programs. I think this is a very powerful way to begin to change the culture in which we think about our

responsibility to kids. Right now, in American public education, the way we think about our responsibility as educators or as school systems is from eight in the morning to two or three in the afternoon, whatever the school day is. But I really believe that it is about extending the day or the time period for which we are collectively responsible for kids, and out-of-school time is one important piece."

The full interview is available online at <http://www.annenberginstitute.org/VUE/summer07/Cicilline>.



WINNERS IN TORANI'S '07 STUDENT ART CONTEST

The work of budding student artists in California, Ohio, Rhode Island and Texas is on display in coffeehouses and kitchens throughout the country, promoting flavorful beverages and serving a good cause. This fall, Torani Ginger Spice, Italian Eggnog, Peppermint and Pomegranate syrups sport new, limited-edition art labels designed by students in afterschool programs. Torani, the number one specialty syrup in North America, will donate five percent of the product's sales from September through December to the Afterschool Alliance.

The students' artwork was selected from hundreds of entries submitted by afterschool students around the country, and their work was celebrated at Italian soda and pizza parties sponsored by Torani at their schools and afterschool programs.

"This is the third year that Torani has sponsored the Art on Labels contest for afterschool students and we are once again delighted with the results," said Lisa Lucheta, Torani principal and family-owner. "For more than 80 years, Torani has been adding splashes of color to people's lives, just as the Afterschool Alliance helps give children everywhere the chance to participate in exciting, colorful experiences after the school

day ends. Ours is a natural partnership and Torani is proud to support afterschool programs.”

The labels were designed by Woodcraft Rangers student Nathaly Campos, 13, of Los Angeles, California; Young Rembrandts student Jessica Hook, nine, of Westlake, Ohio; RiverzEdge Arts Project student Latia Drayton, 15, of Woonsocket, Rhode Island; and Cooperative for After-School Enrichment (CASE) student Leonard Smith, 11, of the Kruse Camp afterschool program in Pasadena, Texas. Now in fifth grade, Smith says his favorite part of the afterschool program is drawing, and that winning the contest was “great. I just thought it was awesome that I finally got to be noticed,” he added.

“Woodcraft is delighted to have a member of our program win this contest,” said Woodcraft Rangers’ Chief Executive Officer Cathie Mostovoy. “Young people living in the inner city today have many choices for their free time, including dangerous options such as joining gangs, using drugs and/or engaging in early sexual activity. Creativity is required to capture and hold their attention, and to channel their energies into positive directions. Woodcraft’s Nvision After School Program provides constructive alternatives for youth after school, when too many would otherwise be roaming the streets, putting themselves, their families and neighbors at risk.”

“Torani is helping to enrich children’s lives, and is a real champion of afterschool programs. These student-designed art labels provide a wonderful venue to showcase children’s talent, which is developed and nurtured in afterschool programs.” said Afterschool Alliance Executive Director Jodi Grant. “This special collaboration with Torani has been key to helping spread the word that all families need quality afterschool programs to keep kids safe, inspire them to learn and help working families.”

To view the winning labels, visit <http://www.torani.com/magazine/ArtonLabels07.shtml>.



SC STUDY FINDS AFTERSCHOOL KEY TO EDUCATION REFORM

One of the most comprehensive studies ever conducted about public education in South Carolina finds considerable consensus in the state about where the best answers lie for reform. *In Their Own Words: A Public Vision for Educational Excellence in South Carolina*, from the Riley Institute at Furman University, finds that people across the state – from rural areas and large cities, spanning all income levels – all view afterschool as a critical component of education reform efforts.

Through more than 100 in-depth discussions with parents, teachers, principals, school board members, superintendents, students and business leaders statewide, this 18-month study examined more than 150 strategies for education reform. It found broad consensus on a small group of strategies that stakeholders of all kinds believe can improve education in the state. The consensus strategies include afterschool programs, tutoring, and turning schools into community learning centers.

“We believe it is highly important for policy makers and all of us to know what people at the grassroots level are thinking about public education in South Carolina, at the place where the work is being done,” said Don Gordon, Director of the Riley Institute. “It was our goal to compile as much sound and useful information as possible and then provide that information to those who make policy decisions about public education in our state.”

Schools and community-based organizations in South Carolina hope to use this new study to press for a stable source of

funding for afterschool programs. In addition, leaders across the country can use it as a model for assessing education reform options in their states.

The South Carolina study was conducted by the Riley Institute's Center for Educational Policy and Leadership, and funded by a grant from the William and Flora Hewlett Foundation. *To view the study, visit <http://cepl.furman.edu/index.php?page=6>.*



RESOURCES

Report: Summer Learning Loss Is Key to Achievement Gap

A new report analyzing years of research blames the impact of “summer learning loss” for much of the achievement gap between children of low-income families and their more affluent peers. In *The Learning Season: The Untapped Power of Summer to Advance Student Achievement*, longtime afterschool researcher Beth Miller calls for increased emphasis on and support for summer learning, including afterschool programs that operate summer sessions.

She writes, “[I]f we look squarely at the evidence, we cannot help but see that the current public conversation on the test-score achievement gap between poor and middle-class children is uninformed and highly problematic. That conversation is long on blaming schools, teachers, parents and students for ‘failure’ to measure up to expectations, and short on understanding that the gap is largely about access to opportunities and resources outside of the classroom, particularly during the summer months.”

The Nellie Mae Education Foundation commissioned the report. *It and a separate executive summary are available at <http://www.nmefdn.org/pubs/?a=8b3b8453-f65e-45f4-9149-f36353ec9b8d&l=Research%20and%20Repo>*

rt&rl=~/grantmaking/Initiatives/OutOfSchool/research.aspx.

TASC Shares Lessons Learned from High School Programs

Drawing on nine years of experience providing afterschool programs for high school students, The After-School Corporation (TASC) has released *Meeting the High School Challenge: Making After-School Work for Older Students*. The paper provides a description and shares lessons learned from one of the nation's largest and longest-running efforts to offer teens high quality, structured afterschool programs, filling more than 40,000 seats over nine years in New York City public high school afterschool programs.

According to the report, older students who participate in afterschool programs significantly improve their chances for success. But “for many reasons...serving teens effectively is one of the greatest challenges for the afterschool field. Participation in afterschool programs declines steadily with age. Many teens have responsibilities outside of school, including work and family commitments. Compared to younger students, whose lives are often managed by parents, high school students make their own decisions about whether to participate in afterschool programs, and they want choice and influence. They expect returns on their investment of time, in the form of leadership opportunities, job preparation, academic credits or stipends. They're also interested in exploring subjects not covered during the school day, socializing with other students and creating tangible works, such as art or video projects. Their interests are more individualized and varied than those of children and younger adolescents.”

The paper describes three programmatic models developed by TASC: comprehensive programs operated by community-based organizations in partnership with public schools, targeted programs operated by

similar partnerships but more narrowly focused on groups of students with particular interests or needs, and stand-alone programs that attract teens from several schools. The report examines the situations in which each model works best, and warns of possible pitfalls.

The report is available online at http://tascorp.org/files/1487_file_hs_report_2007.pdf.

Boston Leaders Create Online Resource

In response to demand from parents and community members who had trouble finding activities for children during out of school time, the City of Boston, BOSTnet and Boston After School & Beyond have launched a new online database that includes afterschool, before school, summer school and weekend activities for youth ages five to 18. BOSTONavigator provides information on available programs according to age, activity type and postal code. Parents and adults can utilize the site to identify local programs and activities for their children, and policy makers can use it to assess where programs exist and where there is an unmet need. *For more information and to view the site, go to <http://www.bostonnavigator.org/>.*

Afterschool Online in Boise

City officials unveiled a new Internet-based mapping program that will let parents in Boise, Idaho find safe, afterschool programs close to home. Activities on the website, After3, include free and fee-based programs for children of any age. Parents can input their home address to access a list of program descriptions – including age level, activities and contact information for enrolling. The site also offers information about groups planning to add programs. After3 is the result of Boise’s City Leaders Engaged in After School Reform (CLEAR), created by the National League of Cities. *To access the site, visit <http://www.cityofboise.org/after3/about/Default.aspx>.*



IN THEIR OWN WORDS...

“The safest place for children is in school and in safe, constructive, supervised afterschool programs.”

--Chief Executive Officer for Chicago Public Schools Arne Duncan, *Chicago Tribune*, September 11, 2007

“As a former school board member, I support South Bend’s efforts to increase academic achievement and I recognize the importance of fine arts and afterschool programs.”

--Senator Richard G. Lugar (R-IN), September 25, 2007, *US Fed News*

“Given the strain of a parent’s deployment, we know that military children often face unique and difficult situations that affect their success in school. [The Impact Aid Amendment, passed as part of the Senate Defense Authorization bill] will help schools provide counseling, tutoring, afterschool programs and dropout prevention activities for students whose parents are the men and women serving our country.”

--Senator Patty Murray (D-WA), October 1, 2007, *US Fed News*

“21st Century Community Learning Centers have demonstrated powerful outcomes in deterring delinquency and improving academic performance. [The new grant] is a great opportunity for Idaho communities to provide quality, structured programming for youth during the time of day when they need it most.”

--Superintendent of Public Instruction for the Idaho Department of Education, Tom Luna, October 3, 2007, *US States News*

“In a state like New Mexico where we struggle to encourage kids to stay engaged and avoid drugs like Meth, I believe safe afterschool programs that promote physical

education are a critical tool to our children's health."

--Representative Steve Pearce (R-NM),
October 3, 2007 *US Fed News*



IN THE NEWS...

Arizona – The Flowing Wells West High School has been awarded a \$250,000 21st Century Grant from the Arizona Department of Education for afterschool programs that help students in math, writing and reading. "One of our goals is to increase the number of students who apply for postsecondary school," Flowing Wells Superintendent Nicholas Clement told the *Arizona Daily Star*. To this end, the high school is using the money to fund a "success initiative," which includes an afterschool tutoring program along with free access to TestGear, an online PSAT, ACT SAT and AIMS test-preparation site.

Illinois – Chicago Mayor Richard Daley and Schools Superintendent Arne Duncan unveiled a \$26 million campaign in support of afterschool programs and measures that protect schoolchildren from violence. The beginning of this year's campaign will see expanded sports and afterschool programs, with the goal of providing safe places with constructive activities for students who would otherwise go unsupervised. In addition, these funds will add 40 more "community schools" to the 110 currently operating. Last year, the killings of 32 of Chicago's public school students grabbed national headlines; at least two more were murdered over the summer. "These are desperately needed resources we're bringing in," Duncan told the *Chicago Tribune*.

Massachusetts – Chris Conroy and his Boston Youth Hip-Hop Shop (BYHHS) are teaching city youth how to write rhymes and scratch records during their afterschool hours.

Overseen by Citizen Schools, the BYHHS has enlisted local talent like Jake the Snake, Omega Red and the Akrobatik, all of whom performed at a BYHHS benefit last month. Conroy, a three-year teaching fellow, seeks to show youth that hip-hop isn't just about rapping – that many people also make a living as producers, promoters and engineers. "It's important for kids to learn from members of the larger Boston community, like the lawyers and businessmen who work with kids in other apprenticeships," Conroy told the *Boston Herald*. "But they also need to feel that there are talents and specific skill sets that can help them succeed within their own communities and traditions."

New York – "Tonight Show" host Jay Leno is proving that he's a stand-up guy in more ways than one by auctioning furniture off the set of his late-night NBC show and giving the proceeds to Bailey's Café, an afterschool program at Brooklyn's Paul Robeson High School. Late last month, Leno telephoned students while taping the show to deliver the news. English teacher Stefanie Siegel, a longtime friend of Leno's and founder of the five-year-old program, told the *New York Daily News* that the money will help Bailey's move out of its shared space and into a permanent home. Bailey's Café works to forge a bond between students and residents of the Bedford-Stuyvesant and Crown Heights neighborhoods through cooking, music and fine arts.

Oklahoma – This month, the West Tulsa Salvation Army Boys & Girls Club is beginning another round of its Earn-A-Bike program. Through club-sponsored programs, children earn a participation credit, a recreation credit, and a community service credit, and take a bicycle safety course before receiving new bikes. Nearly 400 bikes have been given away so far, and the organization has spent \$25,000 on bikes and helmets, according to the *Tulsa World*. "For a lot of these kids, a brand-new bike is a huge deal,

because some of their parents can't afford a bike, or they use bikes that used to be their older brother's or sister's," said Jamar Giddings, unit director for the West Tulsa organization. "These kids are learning and having fun at the same time."



GIVE KIDS GOOD SCHOOLS

October 15 to 21 is Give Kids Good Schools Week – a national public education campaign organized by the Public Education Network to give Americans the information and resources they need to take action to improve schools. Communities are encouraged to hold conversations with policy makers, educators and other leaders about improving public schools, and to hold activities and events that will help raise awareness during the week-long campaign. Events will be taking place across the country. *For more information and to find an event near you, visit www.givekidsgoodschools.org.*



CALIFORNIA UPDATE

California Adolescent Nutrition and Fitness Program Releases Policy Overview on Afterschool in California

The California Adolescent Nutrition and Fitness (CANFit) Program has announced the release of *The AfterSchool Landscape in California: Opportunities of the After School Education and Safety Program Act*. This policy brief provides an overview of current afterschool developments in California, and the opportunities and challenges they create for those who provide physical activity and nutrition programs for youth. With the doubling of state-funded afterschool programs following implementation of the After School Education and Safety program, the brief also

explores the differences between programs run by local education agencies and those run by community-based programs. *The policy brief is available at <http://www.canfit.org/pdf/CANFit%20ASES%20PolicyBrief.pdf>.*

Making the Match: Finding Funding for After School Education and Safety Programs

The Finance Project recently released a guide on matching After School Education and Safety (ASES) funds for ASES grantees online. The guide, *Making the Match: Finding Funding for After School Education and Safety Programs*, helps community, school and program leaders analyze their funding needs, assess their current resources and strategize about how and where to generate matching funds. *The guide is available for download at <http://financeproject.org/Publications/MakingTheMatch.pdf>.*

Gold Medal for 'A World Fit for Kids'

A World Fit for Kids! (*WORLDFIT*) has won the Spotlight Award Gold Medal from the California Governor's Council on Physical Fitness and Sports for "positively impacting the physical activity, fitness and well-being of California's children and youth." Governor Arnold Schwarzenegger presented the award at a Los Angeles ceremony on September 18. *WORLDFIT* is a Los Angeles-based nonprofit that offers physical activity and youth development programs that allow teens to be coaches, role models and mentors for young children. Since its founding in 1993, it has worked with 130,000 young people. *For more information, visit <http://www.worldfitforkids.org/>.*



DISCOUNT ON SCHOOL SUPPLIES

The Afterschool Alliance partnership with Discount School Supply gives friends of afterschool a ten percent discount on all school supply orders. To receive the discount, put the code A4A (it stands for Afterschool 4 All) in the pink promotional box when ordering supplies at www.discountschoolsupply.com. Or mention it when you call 1-800-627-2829 to place an order.

MARK YOUR CALENDARS...

October 18, 2007

The 2007 *Lights On Afterschool* will feature rallies at afterschool programs across the country. Sponsored by the Afterschool Alliance, *Lights On Afterschool* is the only nationwide event celebrating afterschool programs. *For more information, visit http://www.afterschoolalliance.org/lights_on/index.cfm.*

October 20, 2007

The Arizona Center for Afterschool Excellence will host the 2007 Afterschool Conference in Mesa. The conference will feature more than 30 workshops addressing site management, physical activities, behavior management and discipline, public policy and advocacy, and program evaluation. *For more information, call 602/ 279-7100 or visit www.azafterschool.org.*

October 22 - 23, 2007

School's Out Washington will sponsor The Bridge from School to Afterschool and Back Conference in Vancouver, bringing together innovative leaders dedicated to improving the effectiveness of afterschool programs. Keynote speakers will include Colleen E. Almojuela, former Executive Director of the Respecting Ethnic and Cultural Heritage Center, and Dr. Deborah Lowe Vandell, of the University of California, Irvine. *For*

information and to register, visit <http://schoolsoutwashington.org/index.cfm?fuseaction=page§ionid=60>.

October 29 - 30, 2007; November 5 - 6, 2007

The National Heart, Lung and Blood Institute; the National Institute of Diabetes & Digestive & Kidney Diseases; the National Institute of Child Health and Human Development; and the National Cancer Institute are sponsoring regional trainings focusing on the Ways to Enhance Children's Activity and Nutrition (We Can!) agenda. The training on October 29 and 30 will take place in Carson City, Nevada, and another will be held on November 5 to 6 in Harrisburg, Pennsylvania. Participants will be trained on We Can! curriculum for parents and youth, and will share ideas and network about how to prevent childhood obesity. *For more information, visit <http://www.wecantrainings.org/events/index.cfm?fuseaction=registration.viewEvent&cntEvent=6>.*

November 1 - 3, 2007

The Harvard Family Research Project will host a professional development institute, Closing the Achievement Gap: Linking Families, Schools and Communities, at the Harvard Graduate School of Education in Cambridge, Massachusetts. The institute will examine how schools, families, out-of-school-time programs and other organizations and agencies can forge connections and build systems of support for children and youth. *For more information and to register, go to <http://www.gse.harvard.edu/%7Eeppe/k12/programs/cag.html>.*

 **November 2 - 3, 2007**

The New Jersey School-Age Care Coalition will host its annual conference for afterschool, *The Creative Spirit of Afterschool*, in Princeton, New Jersey. *For more information and to register, visit* <http://www.njsacc.org/news.html#conferences>.

 **November 7 - 10, 2007**

The National Guild of Community Schools of the Arts will host the 2007 Conference for Arts Education in Los Angeles, California. Workshops include: integrating arts and academics; planning effective and sustainable partnerships; effective grant writing; community arts education in small towns and rural communities; and more. *For more information and to register, visit* <http://www.communityartsed.org/>.

 **November 15 - 17, 2007**

The Children’s Forum will host the After-School Solutions State Conference in Orlando, Florida. The conference will offer a wide range of workshops and trainings for afterschool professionals. *For more information, visit* <http://www.thechildrensforum.com/training.html#e2007-11-16>.

** And mark your calendars now for the 2008 “Afterschool for All Challenge,” May 13th and 14th in Washington, D.C.!

More information on upcoming conferences and events is available at www.afterschoolalliance.org/states/calendar_main.cfm.

The Afterschool Alliance is a nonprofit public awareness and advocacy organization working to ensure that all children and youth have access to quality afterschool programs. More information is available at www.afterschoolalliance.org.

The Alliance is proud to count among its founding partners the Mott Foundation, U.S. Department of Education, JCPenney Afterschool Fund, Open Society Institute/The After-School Corporation, the Entertainment Industry Foundation and the Creative Artists Agency Foundation.

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