



## **Afterschool Ambassador Program: Legacy of Leadership**

NEWS RELEASE  
October 16, 2009

CONTACT: Gretchen Wright  
202/371-1999

### **Afterschool Alliance Names Afterschool Director for New Haven Public Schools as one of Just 19 ‘Afterschool Ambassadors’ from Across Nation**

#### ***Dr. Charles E. Warner Will Work at Local, State, Federal Levels to Expand Afterschool***

Washington, DC – The Afterschool Alliance today announced the selection of Dr. Charles E. Warner, Director of Instruction/Extended School Year of New Haven Public Schools to serve as a 2009-2010 Afterschool Ambassador. Dr. Warner is one of just 19 local leaders from 15 states selected for the honor this year. Each Ambassador will continue directing or supporting a local afterschool program while also serving a one-year Afterschool Ambassador term organizing public events, communicating with policy makers, and building support for afterschool programs.

“Quality afterschool programs keep kids safe, inspire them to learn, and help working families,” said Afterschool Alliance Executive Director Jodi Grant. “Americans strongly support afterschool programs but across the nation, we’re seeing programs cut back or closed in the face of recession-driven budget cuts. Dr. Warner brings energy and talent to the role of Afterschool Ambassador, and will spread the word about the urgent need to make afterschool programs available to all children and families that need them. I look forward to working with him to build even stronger support for afterschool among parents, business and community leaders, lawmakers, and the media. We are proud to have Dr. Warner on our team.”

“I’m delighted to have this wonderful opportunity to help secure the future of afterschool programs for kids and families in our community, and across the state and nation,” said Dr. Warner. “I’m proud of the significant contribution that quality afterschool programs make to the community, and look forward to helping to expand support for them.”

The New Haven Public Schools’ extended school year programs (before and afterschool, Saturday academies, summer school and other programming) serves approximately 14,000 students. It provides academic, enrichment, recreational and parenting programs. The academics are aligned with the District’s curriculum and professional staff development. Funding for the Extended School Year comes through Mayor John Destefano’s office, New Haven Public Schools, Federal and State, private and organizations within the City of New Haven.

Dr. Charles E. Warner serves on the Connecticut State Department of Education's Advisory Council for the Extended School, which works to promote afterschool across the state. Dr. Warner has been with the New Haven Public Schools for 39 years as a Director of Instruction and Special Programs. Dr. Warner also is also a member of the Mayor's Youth Initiative in New Haven. In 2008, New Haven was recognized as an All-America City by the National Civic League.

Each Ambassador will organize a major event for *Lights On Afterschool*, the Afterschool Alliance's tenth annual nationwide series of rallies for afterschool, on October 22 this year. Last year, a million people rallied at 7,500 *Lights On* events. Despite overwhelming public support, and an agreement embodied in the *No Child Left Behind Act* to steadily increase federal funding, federal support for the 21<sup>st</sup> Century Community Learning Centers initiative – the principal federal funding stream for afterschool programs – has lagged far behind the need. The *No Child Left Behind Act* authorized \$2.5 billion for afterschool this year, but funding is at less than half that level. Congress has not yet completed work on the education budget for Fiscal Year 2010.

Ambassadors will also work to share the results of the Afterschool Alliance's recently released *America After 3PM* report, a nationwide survey of nearly 30,000 households gauging their views on afterschool and gathering data on afterschool's impact. The report, released earlier this month, found that 18 percent of Connecticut children are in afterschool programs, while 28 percent are responsible for taking care of themselves in the afternoons and another 14 percent are in the care of brothers or sisters. The survey was sponsored by the JCPenney Afterschool Fund. Complete results are available at [www.afterschoolalliance.org](http://www.afterschoolalliance.org).

The 2009-2010 Afterschool Ambassadors are from:

- **Vestavia Hills, Alabama:** Ronda Charping, Vestavia Hills City Schools Extended Day;
- **Ridgecrest, California:** Sandra Goldstein, Southern Sierra Boys & Girls Club;
- **Bakersfield, California:** Garrett Shipes, Greenfield Success After School Program, Greenfield Union School District;
- **New Haven, Connecticut:** Dr. Charles Warner, Gateway Center, New Haven Public Schools;
- **Fort Shafter, Hawaii:** Peter Tedtaotao, Ft. Shafter Youth Center SAS Program;
- **Wichita, Kansas:** Patricia Houston, Community Education, City of Wichita;
- **Paris, Kentucky:** Leslie Spears, Promise Program, Paris Independent Schools;
- **Catlettsburg, Kentucky:** Teresa Spurlock, Catlettsburg Elementary WOW Afterschool Program, Boyd County Public Schools;
- **Boston, Massachusetts:** Daniel Rosen, Citizen Schools;
- **College Park, Maryland:** Kendra Wells, 4-H Youth Development Extension, University of Maryland;
- **Detroit, Michigan:** Gazell Watkins-Mitchell, Before and After School Programs, Communities In Schools of Detroit;
- **Farmington, New Mexico:** Florencia (Flo) Trujillo, Farmington Public Library (returning Ambassador);
- **Haddonfield, New Jersey:** Denise Sellers, Haddonfield Child Care;

- **Las Vegas, Nevada:** Judy Schroeder, Safekey Program, City of Las Vegas, Department of Leisure Services;
- **New York, New York:** Liz Hopfan, Free Arts NYC;
- **Bronx, New York:** Danny Peralta, THE POINT CDC;
- **Dallas, Texas:** Tanya McDonald, Dallas AfterSchool Network;
- **Irving, Texas:** Gail Vessels, YMCA of Metropolitan Dallas; and
- **West Valley City, Utah:** Margaret Peterson, Community Education Partnership of West Valley City, Inc.

# # #

*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).*