



Afterschool Ambassador Program: Legacy of Leadership

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Afterschool Alliance Names Danny R. Peralta of THE POINT One of Just 19 ‘Afterschool Ambassadors’ from Across Nation

Peralta Will Work in New York and Nationally to Expand Afterschool

Washington, DC – The Afterschool Alliance today announced the selection of Danny R Peralta, Director of Arts and Education of THE POINT Community Development Corporation to serve as a 2009-2010 Afterschool Ambassador. He 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. Peralta’s Ambassadorship is sponsored by The Robert Bowne Foundation.

“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. Peralta 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 Danny 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,” Peralta said. “I’m proud of the contribution afterschool programs make to the community, and look forward to helping expand support for them.”

THE POINT CDC’s mission is to connect creativity and the community through community development, arts and culture, and youth development. THE POINT CDC serves more than 300 youth of all ages in areas as diverse as literacy, circus and visual arts, and environmental stewardship each year. Peralta has served as Director of Arts and Education for the past year and is a product of its ICP @ THE POINT program. He comes with more than ten years of service throughout New York City in both school settings and non-profit programs.

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 21st 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 *America After 3PM* report, a nationwide survey of nearly 30,000 households gauging their views on afterschool and gathering data on afterschool's impact. National and state results are being released in October. The new survey was sponsored by the JCPenney Afterschool Fund.

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;
- **NewHaven, 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;
- **LasVegas, 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
- **WestValleyCity, Utah:** Margaret Peterson, Community Education Partnership of West Valley City, Inc.

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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.