



NEWS RELEASE
June 22, 2010

CONTACT: Gretchen Wright
202/371-1999

Anita Krishnamurthi Named Afterschool Alliance's New 'STEM' Policy Director

*Emphasis on Strengthening Science, Technology,
Engineering & Math Education in Afterschool Programs*

WASHINGTON, DC – The Afterschool Alliance today named Anita Krishnamurthi to be its Director of Science, Technology, Engineering and Math (STEM) Policy, a newly created position. Krishnamurthi will work to develop and advance federal, state and local policies and opportunities to expand resources supporting STEM curriculum in afterschool programs.

“Anita brings a wealth of experience to this important task, and we’re delighted to have her join our team,” said Afterschool Alliance Executive Director Jodi Grant. “STEM is an increasingly vital – and increasingly common – component of afterschool programs, and Anita will be our point person in crafting policy that helps nurture and sustain programs’ efforts to prepare students for the tech-driven 21st century workplace.”

Krishnamurthi comes to the Afterschool Alliance after serving as the John Bahcall Public Policy Fellow at the American Astronomical Society. She has nearly a decade of experience in science education and outreach to a wide variety of audiences.

Before that fellowship, Krishnamurthi worked at the National Aeronautics and Space Administration (NASA) for six years, first as an Education and Public Outreach Program Planning Specialist at NASA headquarters in Washington, D.C., and then as Lead for Education and Public Outreach in the Astrophysics Science Division at NASA’s Goddard Space Flight Center in Greenbelt, Maryland.

Before joining NASA, Krishnamurthi was a Program Officer at the National Academy of Sciences in Washington, D.C., in the Office on Public Understanding of Science.

Krishnamurthi’s formal training is in astrophysics. She received her Ph.D. from The Ohio State University in December 1997, and then conducted postdoctoral work at the University of Colorado at Boulder.

“I’m looking forward to the challenge,” Krishnamurthi said. “Afterschool programs make a huge difference in the lives of our children, families and communities. They keep kids safe, inspire them to learn and help working families. Afterschool programs are a

fabulous place to spark children's interest in STEM topics in a setting that's often more hands-on, and usually more focused on applied learning, than the regular-day classroom. So there's a bright future for STEM in afterschool. We need to make sure policies are in place to support that, and that programs take advantage of the opportunities."

The Afterschool Alliance's Director of STEM Policy position is made possible through generous support from the Noyce Foundation and the Burroughs Wellcome Fund.

#

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.