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## **Bill White's Afterschool Legacy**

*Statement of Jodi Grant, Executive Director, Afterschool Alliance*

“On Wednesday, [William S. White](#), the former president, CEO and board chair of the Charles Stewart Mott Foundation passed away. Bill White created a legacy that has improved, and continues to improve, the lives of children, families and communities across our nation.

With Bill's leadership, a once-small federal funding stream of \$1 million grew to more than \$1 billion, due in large part to a public private partnership between the U.S. Department of Education and the Mott Foundation. A handshake between White and U.S. Education Secretary Dick Riley led to the establishment of this incredibly successful partnership, which has provided tools, resources, and opportunities to tens of millions of kids through the 21<sup>st</sup> Century Community Learning Centers (21<sup>st</sup> CCLC) program.

The 21<sup>st</sup> CCLC program now supports more than 1.7 million children and youth each year at more than 11,000 sites across our country. From the start, the 21<sup>st</sup> CCLC program boasted bipartisan support because of its ability to improve prospects for children and youth. Through 21<sup>st</sup> CCLC, afterschool and summer learning programs in urban, suburban and rural areas receive funding to identify communities' needs, engage local resources, create powerful partnerships, and provide safe places for children and youth to learn and thrive while their parents are at work.

Just two days before he passed away peacefully, [Bill was honored](#) by the Council of Michigan Foundations for his leadership.

The Afterschool Alliance board and staff will be forever grateful for the strong working relationship with Bill; current Mott Foundation President and CEO, Ridgway White; the entire Mott family; and the Mott Foundation team. Their strategic thinking and generous philanthropy helped create sophisticated, highly effective stakeholders who are working to protect and expand afterschool and summer learning opportunities, not only at the national level but also in all 50 states.”

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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](http://www.afterschoolalliance.org).*