



**MEDIA ADVISORY**  
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## **Afterschool Alliance to Honor 2012 Afterschool Champions**

### ***2012 “Breakfast of Champions” to Feature Project Exploration Co-Founders Paul Sereno and Gabrielle Lyon, Actor Kevin Sorbo to Emcee***

Actor Kevin Sorbo will join hundreds of parents, children, educators, lawmakers and advocates from around the nation on Wednesday, May 9 at a “Breakfast of Champions” at which the Afterschool Alliance will honor several Members of Congress and eight state champions for their commitment to afterschool programs. The Alliance will present its “Afterschool for All” Champion Award to paleontologist Paul Sereno and educator Gabrielle Lyon, co-founders of Project Exploration, a highly successful program in Chicago that provides girls and students of color with opportunities to work with scientists who act as teachers, mentors, and role models for their outstanding work.

The “Breakfast of Champions” is an annual event organized by the Afterschool Alliance as part of the eleventh annual *Afterschool for All Challenge*. The “Breakfast” will be at:

**8:00 AM Wednesday, May 9  
Room D-G50, Dirksen Senate Office Building**

**WITH**  
***Actor Kevin Sorbo***

***Project Exploration Co-Founders Paul Sereno and Gabrielle Lyon***

***Afterschool Alliance Executive Director Jodi Grant***

***Invited Members of Congress, including: Senator Barbara Boxer (CA), Senator Sheldon Whitehouse (RI), Representative David Cicilline (RI), Representative Rosa DeLauro (CT), Representative Dale Kildee (MI), Representative Sheila Jackson Lee (TX) and Representative Nita Lowey (NY).***

The Afterschool State Champions being honored are:

- **California:** Jennifer Peck, Executive Director, Partnership for Children and Youth
- **Florida:** Claudia Davant, Managing Partner, Adams St. Advocates
- **Kansas:** Dr. Elaine Johannes, Associate Professor, Kansas State University
- **Nevada:** Olivia Diaz, Assemblywoman, Nevada State Legislature
- **New York:** Lena Townsend, Executive Director, Robert Bowne Foundation
- **New York:** Anne Lawrence, Program Officer, Robert Bowne Foundation

- **Ohio:** Dr. Monica J. Mitchell, Associate Professor of Pediatrics and Co-Director of INNOVATIONS, Cincinnati Children’s Hospital & Medical Center
- **Pennsylvania:** Dr. Kathryn Hynes, Assistant Professor, Penn State University

Representative Dale Kildee (MI) will receive the C.S. Mott Foundation’s William S. White Achievement Award in recognition of his decades of work in support of afterschool programs. Gwynn Hughes, Program Officer at the C.S. Mott Foundation, will present the award.

The Breakfast will also include remarks by “Pobo” Efekoro, a New York high school student who is featured in *Brooklyn Castle*, a new documentary film about a New York public school that is home to the most winning middle school chess team in the country. The afterschool program is now threatened by public school budget cuts. Pobo was part of the chess team at I.S. 318 for three years and now coaches the team.

Following the Breakfast, participants will head for Capitol Hill to meet with their representatives and senators to discuss the importance of afterschool programs to children, families and communities.

The 2012 *Afterschool for All Challenge* is generously sponsored by: United States Tennis Association, the NAMM Foundation, Peavey Electronics, Cable in the Classroom, National AfterSchool Association and Arnold and Sandra Grant. Additional funding is provided by Torani and the C.S. Mott Foundation.

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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).*

*Project Exploration is a nonprofit science education organization that works to ensure communities traditionally overlooked by science—particularly minority youth and girls—have access to personalized experiences with science and scientists. **Project Exploration. Changing the Face of Science.** [www.projectexploration.org](http://www.projectexploration.org)*