



MEDIA ALERT  
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**Parents, Students, Educators, Afterschool Supporters  
To Urge Congress to Increase Afterschool Funding  
At “Breakfast of Champions” on Thursday**

***Time Warner, Nortel Networks and Afterschool Programs  
In Kansas, Pennsylvania and South Carolina to Receive Awards***

Several hundred parents, children, educators and advocates from around the country will come to Washington, D.C. Thursday to urge lawmakers to increase funding for the federal 21<sup>st</sup> Century Community Learning Centers (21<sup>st</sup> CCLC) afterschool initiative in Fiscal Year 2005. Organized by the Afterschool Alliance, the “Afterschool for All Challenge” will kick off with a *Breakfast of Champions* at:

**8:00 AM Thursday, May 20**

**Dirksen Senate Office Building, Room G-50**

**WITH**

**Senators Barbara Boxer (D-CA), Sam Brownback (R-KS), Maria Cantwell (D-WA),  
Hillary Rodham Clinton (D-NY), Elizabeth Dole (R-NC), Lisa Murkowski (R-AK),  
Patty Murray (D-WA), Rick Santorum (R-PA) and Debbie A. Stabenow (D-MI)**

**&**

**Representatives Dale Kildee (D-MI), Zoe Lofgren (D-CA),  
Nita Lowey (D-NY) and Ralph Regula (R-OH)**

At the *Breakfast of Champions*, Members of Congress will join the Afterschool Alliance in presenting awards to five Afterschool Champions:

- Geary County Schools 21<sup>st</sup> Century Afterschool Program, Junction City, **Kansas**;
- Farrell and Sharon School District 21<sup>st</sup> Century Community Learning Centers C.O.O.L. (Children’s Opportunities for Outside Learning) Program, Farrell, **Pennsylvania**;
- Richland County School District One After School Programs, Columbia, **South Carolina**;
- Nortel Networks, Herndon, **Virginia**; and
- Time Warner, Inc., New York, **New York**.

Afterschool Alliance Executive Director Judy Y. Samelson and JCPenney Afterschool Fund Chair Gary Davis will also speak at the *Breakfast*.

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After the *Breakfast of Champions*, activists will meet with their senators and representatives to discuss the benefits offered by afterschool programs and to urge them to fully fund the 21<sup>st</sup> Century Community Learning Centers initiative, which supports afterschool programs.

President Bush's budget proposal for Fiscal Year 2005 calls for flat-funding the initiative at \$1 billion for the fourth year in a row. In the "No Child Left Behind Act of 2001," lawmakers authorized \$2 billion for the 21<sup>st</sup> CCLC program for Fiscal Year 2005. This level of funding would provide afterschool programs for twice as many children as current appropriations – an increase from 1.4 million children to 2.8 million children served. Today, more than 14 million children have no place to go after school.

Last December, a bipartisan group of all 14 women in the U.S. Senate's women sent a joint letter to President Bush urging him to provide enough funding to permit the 21<sup>st</sup> Century Community Learning Centers (21<sup>st</sup> CCLC) initiative to grow in the next fiscal year.

**On Wednesday, at a 1 PM news conference at the J.W. Marriott Hotel, Salon D (1331 Pennsylvania Avenue NW, Washington, D.C.), the Afterschool Alliance will release the first-ever national household survey to explore how children spend their after school time.** The household survey provides the best data yet on how many youth are in afterschool programs, how many are in self care in the afternoons, and how satisfied parents are with their children's afterschool programs.

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