



MEDIA ADVISORY
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Afterschool Advocates to Visit Nation's Capital to Urge Support for Afterschool at Eleventh Annual *Afterschool for All Challenge*

Project Exploration Co-Founders Paul Sereno and Gabrielle Lyon Will Join Parents, Students, Educators from Across Country to Urge Congress to Safeguard Afterschool Funding, Increase Investment in Afterschool Programs

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, will be among hundreds of educators, students, parents and policy makers calling for Congress to preserve afterschool funding and expand opportunities for children to learn in afterschool programs at the Afterschool Alliance's *Afterschool for All Challenge: Transforming Research into Action*, May 8 and 9 in Washington, DC.

The eleventh annual *Afterschool for All Challenge* will highlight the evidence base for afterschool—how before-school, afterschool and summer learning programs can and are supporting a wide range of positive outcomes for kids, families and communities. Afterschool experts and professionals working in the field will be on hand to discuss the latest research and describe how programs are already putting it to work for continuous improvement.

Challenge participants will also have the opportunity to see the trailer for and learn more about *Brooklyn Castle*, a new documentary film about a New York public school that is home to the most winning junior high school chess team in the country. The afterschool program is now threatened by public school budget cuts.

The event is designed to give people the chance to voice their support for the afterschool programs that keep kids safe, inspire them to learn and help working families.

***Afterschool for All Challenge* activities and events on May 8 will be held at the Marriott Wardman Park Hotel, 2660 Woodley Road, NW, Washington, DC.**

On May 9, the *Afterschool for All Challenge Breakfast of Champions*, honoring Sereno, Lyon, and congressional and state afterschool champions, will be held at 8:00 AM in the Dirksen Senate Office Building, Room D-G50.

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.

*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*