



NEWS RELEASE  
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## **Afterschool Alliance Honors Ten Afterschool Champions From Across the Country**

### ***State and Local Officials and Afterschool Providers Honored at Ninth Annual Afterschool for All Challenge in Washington, DC***

WASHINGTON, D.C. – The Afterschool Alliance today honored ten outstanding individuals for their tireless and steadfast support for afterschool programs at the “Breakfast of Champions,” a gala event in Washington, D.C. that featured performances by Mark Bryan, lead guitarist and founder of Hootie and the Blowfish and afterschool youth. The ten Afterschool Champions are from all across the country and their support of afterschool programs has resulted in greater access to quality programs for children and families.

The 2010 Afterschool Champions are:

**California:** Carla Sanger, President and CEO of LA’s BEST After School Enrichment Program in Los Angeles;

**Connecticut:** David Davison, David Davison, President and CEO of the American Savings Foundation;

**Indiana:** Chuck Oberlie, Mayor of Michigan City, Indiana;

**Kansas:** Wendell Maddox, President and CEO of the United Way of Wyandotte County

**Michigan:** Jerry Ellis, Mayor of Farmington Hills

**New York:** Renee L. Rider, Assistant Commissioner of the Division of Child Care Services, New York State Office of Children and Family Services;

**Pennsylvania:** Thierry Malley, State Director of the Pennsylvania Area Council of Boys and Girls Clubs;

**Rhode Island:** State Representative Edwin Pacheco;

**South Carolina:** William Byars, State Director of the South Carolina Department of Juvenile Justice; and

**Tennessee:** Ronnie Steine, Councilmember-at-Large, Metro Government of Nashville and Davidson County.

The “Breakfast of Champions” is part of the ninth annual *Afterschool for All Challenge*, sponsored by the Afterschool Alliance, which brings together hundreds of parents, educators, children, program directors and advocates from around the country for a series of events and meetings with Members of Congress. It is being held this year in conjunction with Be the Change, the National AfterSchool Association’s (NAA) annual convention. At these events, afterschool advocates are urging Congress to safeguard federal funding for these programs and

reject Administration proposals to cut funding by \$13 million in Fiscal Year 2011 and to allow non-afterschool programs to compete for federal afterschool dollars.

“This year, federal support for afterschool programs is in serious peril,” said Afterschool Alliance Executive Director Jodi Grant. “The Obama Administration is proposing making non-afterschool programs eligible for the already limited federal dollars available through the 21<sup>st</sup> Century Community Learning Centers (21<sup>st</sup> CCLC) initiative, which is the principal federal funding stream for afterschool. It is more important than ever that advocates speak up and speak out to ensure that every child who needs afterschool has access to the programs that keep kids safe, inspire them to learn and help working families.”

The 2010 “Breakfast of Champions” is sponsored by: United States Tennis Association, Bright House Networks, Quaker Chewy, Torani, Sony Pictures Entertainment, Open Society Institute, Peavey Electronics, NAMM, The Annie E. Casey Foundation, D.C. Children and Youth Investment Trust Corporation and Cable in the Classroom.

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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).*