



NEWS RELEASE
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LA's BEST President & CEO Carla Sanger Honored as an Afterschool Champion in Nation's Capital

*Parents, Educators, Students, Afterschool Leaders
Urge Congress to Increase Afterschool Funding*

WASHINGTON, D.C. – The Afterschool Alliance today honored Carla Sanger, the President and CEO of LA's BEST After School Enrichment Program, for her support for afterschool programs at the "Breakfast of Champions," a gala event in Washington, D.C. that featured performances by lead guitarist Mark Bryan of Hootie & the Blowfish and afterschool youth. Sanger was instrumental in developing LA's BEST, which now serves 28,000 children at 180 elementary school sites in Los Angeles neighborhoods that are vulnerable to gangs, drugs, crime and at schools with the lowest student test scores. Sanger was one of just ten individuals from around the country honored at the "Breakfast" for supporting and working on behalf of the afterschool programs. The California Afterschool Network nominated her for the honor.

Sanger has been a specialist in children's education policy and advocacy for more than 40 years. She was a member of the original Education Council that oversaw the development of LA's BEST in 1988 and has served as its president and CEO of the program for 21 years.

Sanger also helped to create Beyond the Bell, a division of the Los Angeles Unified School District (LAUSD) that is responsible for all out-of-school programs that do business with the School District. Through Beyond the Bell, LAUSD coordinates the vision, plans, grant preparation and evaluation for all afterschool programs. On a statewide level, Sanger worked closely with Arnold Schwarzenegger to draft language for Proposition 49, the California ballot initiative that increased state funding for afterschool by \$500 million, vastly expanding afterschool programming in the state.

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 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 21st Century Community Learning Centers (21st 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.”

Other state champions honored at the *Afterschool for All Challenge* are: William Byars, State Director of the South Carolina Department of Juvenile Justice; David Davison, President and CEO of the American Savings Foundation in New Britain, Connecticut; Jerry Ellis, Mayor of Farmington Hills, Michigan; Wendell Maddox, President and CEO of the United Way of Wyandotte County, Kansas; Thierry Malley, State Director of the Pennsylvania Area Council of Boys & Girls Clubs; Chuck Oberlie, Mayor of Michigan City, Indiana; Rhode Island State Representative Edwin Pacheco; Renee L. Rider, Assistant Commissioner of the Division of Child Care Services, New York State Office of Children and Family Services; and Ronnie Steine, Councilmember-at-Large, Metro Government of Nashville and Davidson County, Tennessee.

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 & 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.