



NEWS RELEASE
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**U.S. Education Secretary Arne Duncan Joins Parents,
Students, Educators from Across Country When they Tell Congress:
Nation’s Kids and Families Urgently Need More Afterschool Programs**

***Afterschool Alliance Releases Roadmap for Expanding Afterschool
At Eighth Annual ‘Afterschool for All Challenge’***

WASHINGTON, D.C. – Hundreds of parents, children, educators and advocates from around the country are in the nation’s Capital this week to encourage Congress to increase funding for afterschool programs. Organized by the Afterschool Alliance, the eighth annual *Afterschool for All Challenge* features the release of the *Roadmap to Afterschool for All*, a report examining the current levels of public and private investments in afterschool programs and providing recommendations for funding and legislative action needed to achieve afterschool for all.

The *Challenge* will include a “Breakfast of Champions” on Tuesday to recognize After School Matters Chair Maggie Daley as the national *Afterschool for All* Champion and to honor state afterschool champions from California, Georgia, Kentucky, Maryland, Michigan, New York and Ohio. U.S. Secretary of Education Arne Duncan will present the award to Mrs. Daley.

Judge Glenda Hatchett will emcee the “Breakfast” and Mrs. Daley will deliver the keynote speech. Senators Barbara Boxer (D-CA) and Richard Durbin (D-IL), and Representatives Danny Davis (D-IL), Phil Hare (D-IL), Dale Kildee (D-MI) and Nita Lowey (D-NY), George Miller (D-CA) and Bobby Scott (D-VA) are among the Members of Congress scheduled to speak.

After the “Breakfast of Champions,” students, parents and afterschool leaders will meet with hundreds of members of Congress and aides to discuss the benefits offered by afterschool programs. They will urge Congress to increase support for quality afterschool programs. The *No Child Left Behind Act* authorized \$2.5 billion for the federal 21st Century Community Learning Centers (21st CCLC) initiative this year, and it is currently funded at just \$1.13 billion. 21st CCLC is the primary federal funding stream for afterschool.

“At this time of tremendous economic stress, America needs many more quality afterschool programs so that our kids are safe and supervised after the school day ends,” said Afterschool Alliance Executive Director Jodi Grant. “Right now we are far below the \$2.5 billion authorized by Congress for the 21st CCLC this year. Our *Roadmap* demonstrates just how far we are from making sure every child who needs afterschool has access to it. Reaching that goal will require increased contributions from all levels

of government, and the business and charitable communities. The federal government must lead the way. The people gathered in D.C. for these two days are doing their part and carrying the message to their legislators that we need them to step up, too.”

Four extraordinary young people were selected by their communities to receive special scholarships to attend the Challenge and discuss what afterschool programs mean to them and their families at the “Breakfast” event. Gregory Quintero, a high school senior from Bakersfield, California and Lauryn Johnson and Lauren Savage, eighth graders from Farmington Hills, Michigan received scholarships from Bright House Networks. The United States Tennis Association sponsored Christopher Carcamo, a senior in the CASE-Southwest School After-School Tennis initiative in Houston, Texas.

The state Afterschool Champions being honored are:

- THINK Together afterschool program Founder and CEO Randy Barth of **Santa Ana, California**
- Eagle Ridge Elementary School Principal Jeanette Scott of **Milledgeville, Georgia**
- Dr. Ella Brunner, Associate Professor at Jefferson Community and Technical College in **Louisville, Kentucky**
- **Michigan** State Senator Bill Hardiman of **Kentwood**
- **Ohio** State Representative Tracy Maxwell Heard of **Columbus**
- **Montgomery County** Executive Isiah Leggett of **Maryland**
- **New York State** Deputy Secretary for Education Duffy Palmer

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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.