



**NEWS RELEASE**  
April 28, 2009

**CONTACT:** Gretchen Wright  
202/371-1999

## **Jefferson Community and Technical College Associate Professor 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 Dr. Ella Brunner, an associate professor at Jefferson Community and Technical College in Louisville, Kentucky who teaches Interdisciplinary Early Childhood Education, for her support for afterschool programs at the “Breakfast of Champions,” a gala event in Washington, D.C. which featured U.S. Secretary of Education Arne Duncan and After School Matters Chair Maggie Daley. Dr. Brunner was one of just seven individuals from around the country honored for supporting and working on behalf of the afterschool programs that keep kids safe, inspire them to learn and help working families. The Kentucky Out-of-School Alliance nominated her for the honor.

Dr. Brunner is a persuasive and tireless advocate for afterschool programs. She is the president of the Kentucky Coalition for School Age Child Care, a member of the Kentucky Out-of-School Alliance Executive Committee and the Chair of the Alliance’s Quality Committee. She has played a critical role in helping child care providers and the range of other out-of-school time providers (including school-based and community-based programs) work together. Under her leadership, the Quality Committee developed recommendations for school age regulations agreeable to the range of providers. Those regulations have been sent to the Kentucky Division of Child Care for consideration.

The “Breakfast of Champions” is part of the eighth 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. At the *Challenge*, the Afterschool Alliance released its *Roadmap to Afterschool for All*, which includes a series of recommendations to make afterschool programs available to all students.

“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. “The *No Child Left Behind Act* authorized slow, steady increases for the 21<sup>st</sup> Century Community Learning Centers (21<sup>st</sup> CCLC) initiative, which is the principal federal funding stream for afterschool, but right now we are far below the \$2.5 billion authorized for 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. We are looking to the federal government to lead the way.” The *Roadmap* is available at [www.afterschoolalliance.org](http://www.afterschoolalliance.org).

Other state champions honored at the *Afterschool for All Challenge* are: THINK Together afterschool program Founder and CEO Randy Barth of Santa Ana, California; Michigan State Senator Bill Hardiman; Ohio State Representative Tracy Maxwell Heard; Montgomery County Executive Isiah Leggett of Maryland; New York State Deputy Secretary for Education Duffy Palmer; and Jeanette Scott, Principal of Eagle Ridge Elementary in Milledgeville, Georgia.

The “Breakfast of Champions” was sponsored by Abbott, United States Tennis Association, Bright House Networks, Marriott, Inc., Open Society Institute, NAMM, National Association of Chain Drug Stores, Cable in the Classroom, National Afterschool Association, National League of Cities, and Foundations, Inc.

# # # #

*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).*