



NEWS RELEASE
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State Rep. Christine Trujillo Honored as an Afterschool Champion at Special Event in Nation's Capital

*At National Event, Educators, Parents, Afterschool Leaders Honor Champions,
Press for Increased Funding for Afterschool Programs*

WASHINGTON, D.C. – The Afterschool Alliance today recognized State Representative Christine Trujillo, for her exemplary support for afterschool programs and the youth who participate in them. Rep. Trujillo was named a State Afterschool Champion at the “Breakfast of Champions,” a gala event in Washington, D.C. featuring Members of Congress and national afterschool champions. Rep. Trujillo has championed increasing state funding for afterschool programs. She was one of 11 state champions honored at the Breakfast for helping to support and expand innovative approaches to expanding learning that close opportunity gaps, build student skills and create pathways for lifelong learning. The New Mexico Afterschool Alliance (NMASA) nominated her for the honor.

During the previous two legislative sessions, Rep. Trujillo championed legislation to increase funding for New Mexico’s afterschool programs, ultimately resulting in New Mexico Public Education Department receiving 1.1 million dollars to expand afterschool programs. Rep. Trujillo is an active member of the New Mexico Afterschool Alliance Leadership Council. She is also a retired educator and has served in the state legislature since 2013.

“The incredible focus and dedication of Representative Trujillo has benefitted countless children across New Mexico,” said Laurie Mueller, New Mexico Afterschool Alliance Leadership Council Chair Community Member. “Rep. Trujillo has continually been a champion for raising the quality of afterschool programs and played a central role in helping to shape policy and funding decisions for the state of New Mexico.

The “Breakfast of Champions” is part of the 13th annual *Afterschool for All Challenge*, sponsored by the Afterschool Alliance. The event brings together hundreds of educators, parents, afterschool leaders and advocates from around the country for a series of events and meetings with Members of Congress. Following the Breakfast, participants met with their senators and representatives on Capitol Hill to talk to about how important afterschool programs are to children, families and communities. This year, the Afterschool Alliance is also encouraging advocates for afterschool to participate in the *Challenge* at home by calling Congressional district offices to urge their representatives in Congress to co-sponsor the Afterschool for America’s Children Act.

“Quality afterschool programs give our children and youth a chance to engage in hands-on, experimental learning in a safe and structured environment after the school day ends,” said Afterschool Alliance Executive Director Jodi Grant. “But they also do much more. Not only are they a lifeline for working parents, afterschool programs expose students to possible careers in the sciences or other fields, teach them the value of community service, and provide them with mentors, meals, physical activity and more. The champions we honor today not only support these programs, but the kids, parents and communities that benefit from them.”

The State Champions being honored at the *Afterschool for All Challenge* are:

- **Florida:** Michael Lannon, Retired Superintendent, St. Lucie County Schools;
- **Kansas:** Joyce Glasscock, Director, Government Relations, Boys & Girls Clubs of America;
- **Massachusetts:** Jennifer Benson, Representative, Massachusetts State Legislature;
- **Michigan:** Peter MacGregor, Representative, Michigan State Legislature;
- **Michigan:** Rashida Tlaib, Representative, Michigan State Legislature;
- **Nebraska:** Rick Kolowski, State Senator, Nebraska State Legislature;
- **New Mexico:** Christine Trujillo, State Representative, New Mexico State Legislature;
- **Ohio:** Gayle Manning, State Senator, Ohio State Legislature;
- **Pennsylvania:** Nancy Peter, Founder and Director, Out-of-School Time Resource Center at the University of Pennsylvania;
- **Tennessee:** Karl Dean, Mayor of Nashville; and
- **Wyoming:** Karen Bierhaus, 21st CCLC State Consultant, Wyoming Department of Education.

The 2014 *Afterschool for All Challenge* is generously sponsored by: The NAMM Foundation, National Afterschool Association and National Geographic Channel.

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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.