



NEWS RELEASE
May 22, 2014

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University of California-Irvine's Vandell Receives National 'Afterschool for All' Champion Award in Washington, D.C.

Judge Glenda Hatchett Leads National Day of Advocacy for Afterschool; Legislators and Education Leaders from Ten States Honored; MetLife Recognizes Five Exemplary Afterschool Programs

Judge Glenda Hatchett joined some 250 parents, children, educators, lawmakers and advocates from around the nation today at a "Breakfast of Champions" on Capitol Hill at which the Afterschool Alliance honored Members of Congress and state champions for afterschool programs. Five innovative afterschool programs were honored at the event, and the Afterschool Alliance presented its "Afterschool for All" Champion Award to researcher Dr. Deborah Lowe Vandell, founding dean of the School of Education at the University of California-Irvine, for her powerful and growing body of research that has been used to improve programs and measure their impact.

"Deborah Lowe Vandell was one of the first researchers to assess afterschool programs, presenting findings to her peers on afterschool choices and outcomes for more than 20 years," said Jodi Grant, Executive Director of the Afterschool Alliance. "Since then, she has released more than 30 papers and articles reviewing the academic and social outcomes associated with participation in quality programs. She is a pre-eminent researcher on afterschool programs and outcomes, and her work has informed program and policy development at the national, state and local levels. Her contribution to quality afterschool programming is enormous and unmatched."

This was the 13th annual "Breakfast of Champions," this year expected to include Senator Jack Reed (D-RI), Senator Sheldon Whitehouse (D-RI), Representative David Cicilline (D-RI), Representative Dan Kildee (D-MI), and Representative Shelley Moore Capito (R-WV). The "Breakfast" is part of the 13th annual *Afterschool for All Challenge*, sponsored by the Afterschool Alliance. Following the "Breakfast," participants from 46 states met with their senators and representatives to talk about the many ways afterschool programs support children, families, schools and communities, and to urge them to support the Afterschool for America's Children Act. Hundreds more afterschool supporters participated in the event from their home communities.

"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," Grant added. "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 who were honored at the event 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, Retired State Senator, Nebraska State Legislature;
- **New Mexico:** Christine Trujillo, State Representative, New Mexico State Legislature;
- **Ohio:** Gayle Manning, State Senator, Ohio State Legislature;
- **Pennsylvania:** Dr. 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 Afterschool Alliance and MetLife Foundation also announced winners of the 2014 MetLife Foundation Afterschool Innovator Awards. The awards, sponsored by MetLife Foundation, recognize afterschool programs that have used innovative approaches to supporting and benefiting middle school students. 2014 MetLife Foundation Afterschool Innovator Awards were given to the following afterschool programs:

- **Baltimore, Md.:** Baltimore Urban Debate League;
- **Chicago, Ill.:** BUILD, Inc., designed to help students reduce risk-taking behavior;
- **Dallas, Texas:** Big Thought's Thriving Minds After-School Program;
- **Los Angeles, Calif.:** the Hope Street Family Center's Youth Center; and
- **Providence, R.I.:** AS220 Youth.

Every program honored as an Afterschool Innovator has been, or will be, highlighted in an [Issue Brief](#) on the Afterschool Alliance's website addressing the ways in which afterschool programs benefit middle school students. The Afterschool Alliance's Issue Brief series examines the role of afterschool programs in addressing a variety of contemporary issues facing youth, schools and communities.

This year, to celebrate the important role that museums and science centers play in providing STEM (science, technology, engineering and math) rich afterschool experiences for kids, the Afterschool Alliance partnered with the Association of Science and Technology Centers to bring museum staff and students to Washington, D.C. to talk about the critical role of afterschool in STEM education. Participants from the National Aquarium in Maryland, the New Jersey Academy of Aquatic Sciences, the Newark Museum, the Franklin Institute in Pennsylvania, and the National History Museum of Utah joined afterschool advocates at the event.

Afterschool programs are struggling for resources. According to a 2012 study conducted by the Afterschool Alliance, nearly two in five afterschool programs (39 percent) report that their budgets are in worse shape today than at the height of the recession in 2008, and more than three in five (62 percent) report that their funding is down "a little or a lot" from three years ago.

Many more students across the country need access to afterschool programs. More than 15 million school-age children – more than one in four kids in the United States – are unsupervised after the school day ends. The parents of 18 million children say they would enroll their kids in afterschool programs – if programs were available. Often, however, they are not.

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.