



MEDIA ADVISORY
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Rep. Rosa DeLauro to Visit New Haven Afterschool Program to View Mentoring in Action

*In Its Eleventh Year in New Haven, Program Pairs Yale College Students
With Area Middle Schoolers*

New Haven, CT – Join U.S. Representative Rosa DeLauro and [Afterschool Alliance](#) Executive Director Jodi Grant on a site visit to New Haven’s Jones-Zimmerman Academic Mentoring Program to witness mentoring in action. The three-year mentoring program is run by Dwight Hall at Yale, matching Yale College sophomores with area middle school students to improve academic achievement and build self-confidence.

**3:00 PM, Monday, April 4
Wexler-Grant School
55 Foote St, New Haven, CT
WITH
U.S. Rep. Rosa DeLauro
Jodi Grant, Executive Director, Afterschool Alliance
Mark Fopeano, Program Manager, Dwight Hall at Yale**

The program recruits Yale freshman to work as mentors beginning in their sophomore year, and sets an environment for academic enrichment and social-bonding over the next three years. Many students point to the long-term commitment of the program as one of its greatest strengths. “The three-year trajectory of mentors with mentees is one of the highlights of J-Z AMP™’s structure because we are able to set long term goals and really observe improvement,” said one student mentor.

In addition to a long-term commitment, mentors and mentees both cite special enrichment activities as highlights of the program: “Taking the time to develop extra-academic relationships does not detract from our academic efforts; these relationships are what enable us to make better use of our academic time, since the mentees feel more motivated to do their work and improve when they have someone with whom they feel close cheering them on.”

A large and growing body of evidence demonstrates improvements in attendance, behavior, academic achievement and more among children in afterschool programs. Researchers have also found that afterschool programs encourage increased parental involvement – an important building block for student success. This innovative type of afterschool programming is exactly what drew the Afterschool Alliance to visit. “Quality afterschool programs keep students safe, inspire them to learn and help working families. They offer young people hands-on, team-based learning opportunities, help with homework, science and technology activities, opportunities for sports and fitness, access to healthy snacks and meals, and much more,” said Grant.

Kristin Miskavage, president and program director of the Marie and John Zimmermann Fund, said, “Recognition by the Afterschool Alliance and state legislators of the value that J-Z AMP™ offers school districts is the first step in leading other districts onto a proven path for helping inner-city students catch up to grade-level expectations, build self-confidence, and envision a brighter, achievable future.” John Zimmermann, co-founder of the J-Z AMP™ approach added, “There should be a J-Z AMP™ partnership in every middle school in the country!”

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Dwight Hall at Yale is the Center for Public Service and Social Justice on Yale University’s campus. By providing opportunities for service and activism, developing civic leadership skills, and supporting innovative and collaborative programming, Dwight Hall at Yale seeks to nurture and inspire students as leaders of social change and to advance justice and service in New Haven and around the world.

The Jones-Zimmermann Academic Mentoring Program (J-Z AMP™) is a proven path for dramatically improving outcomes among academically at-risk students. Via strong partnerships between urban universities and public school districts, J-Z AMP™ provides free, structured, after-school academic tutoring, life skills coaching, and enrichment activities to middle school students for three years.

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.