



**NEWS RELEASE**  
May 22, 2014

**CONTACT:** [Gretchen Wright](#)  
202/371-1999

## **Former St. Lucie County Schools Superintendent 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 Michael Lannon, former superintendent of St. Lucie County Schools, for his exemplary support for afterschool programs and the youth who participate in them. Lannon 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. While he was Superintendent of St. Lucie County Schools, Lannon embraced Florida’s Quality Afterschool Standards and promoted quality afterschool programs with Florida’s superintendents association, the state legislature, and the broader education community. He 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 Florida Afterschool Network nominated him for the honor.

Before retiring as the Superintendent of St. Lucie County Public Schools, Lannon had more than 44 years of experience in education. As Superintendent, he advocated for strong and high quality 21st Century Community Learning Centers afterschool programs through community partnership efforts. Lannon serves on the Board of Directors and was past president of the Florida Association of District School Superintendents.

He is an active member of the Governors Board for the American Association of School Administrators and serves on the boards of the Economic Development Council, United Way of St. Lucie County, Workforce Development Board, St. Lucie County Chamber of Commerce, Children’s Services Council, Early Learning Coalition, The Alliance of the Treasure Coast and the Education Foundation of St. Lucie County.

“Mike Lannon has been a champion for at-risk youth throughout his entire career as an educator and school administrator,” said Joe Davis, Florida Afterschool Network (FAN) Chief Executive Officer. “Mike has continually championed raising the quality of afterschool programs and has played a central role in helping to shape policy and funding decisions for Florida. For the last seven years he has served on the Florida Afterschool Network’s board of directors and has been a driving force behind FAN’s successful presence across the state.”

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 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
- **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.

# # # #

*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).*