



NEWS RELEASE
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University of Pennsylvania Out-of-School Time Resource Center Director 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 Dr. Nancy Peter, Founder and Director of the Out-of-School Time Resource Center (OSTRC), at the University of Pennsylvania's School of Social Policy and Practice, for her exemplary support for afterschool programs and the youth in which they participate. Dr. Peter 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. The OSTRC, which she established in 2003, has earned a local, regional, and national reputation for its high quality resource center and research activities. Dr. Peter 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 Pennsylvania Statewide Afterschool Youth Development Network (PSAYDN) nominated her for the honor.

Dr. Peter has worked in the field of environmental education, informal science education, afterschool programming, and positive youth development for more than 30 years. The OSTRC assembles and provides out-of-school time (OST) resources such as Peer Networking Meetings, Regional Resource Directories, a Professional Development Calendar, and an online Document Library. The OSTRC also conducts research on and produces publications addressing promising practices in (OST professional development, surveys, and toolkits. Peter participates in a National Research Council committee exploring science, technology, engineering and math (STEM) in OST settings; chairs PSAYDN's STEM OST statewide systems building Project Accelerate leadership team and workgroup; and serves on the George Washington Carver Science Fair Committee, (the largest urban science fair in the country). In 2010, Dr. Peter co-founded the Philadelphia Youth Sports Collaborative, a collection of Philadelphia area programs that use sports as tool to enhance positive youth development and twenty-first century skills. She is also an adjunct professor at The University of Pennsylvania's Graduate School of Education, where she currently co-teaches a year-long master's level course entitled "Learning in Informal Settings."

“While Dr. Peter is not solely responsible for the Out-of-School Time Resource Center’s success, it was her vision that crafted the center, its accomplishments and its longevity,” said Kacy Conley PSAYDN Director. “For more than three decades Dr. Peter has dedicated her life to improving the educational opportunities for children and youth. Her substantial contributions and creative approach to improving the out-of-school time and afterschool fields on a local, statewide, and national level make her a true champion.”

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; 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.