



NEWS RELEASE
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CONTACT: Gretchen Wright
202/371-1999

Afterschool Alliance Board Chair Terry K. Peterson Receives National Award for Dedication to Excellence in Service of Children, Schools and Communities

Terry K. Peterson, the Chairman of the Afterschool Alliance, today received the C.S. Mott Foundation's prestigious national William S. White Achievement Award for his decades of work in service of afterschool and the children, schools and communities that benefit. Peterson was recently re-elected to his fifth term as chairman of the Alliance. He is also director of the Afterschool and Community Learning National Resource Network and a Senior Fellow at the College of Charleston in South Carolina. William S. White, President of the Mott Foundation, today presented the Award at the Afterschool Alliance's ninth annual *Afterschool for All Challenge* in Washington, DC, which is being held in conjunction with the National AfterSchool Association's annual convention, *Be the Change*, and the National League of Cities' Afterschool Summit.

Peterson serves on leadership committees of the National Alliance for Excellence in Education; the National School Boards Association; the Coalition for Community Schools, Foundations, Inc, the News Literacy Project and the National Association for Summer Learning. In South Carolina, he serves on the South Carolina Afterschool Alliance Board, South Carolina Arts in Basic Curriculum Committee and Charleston New Day for Learning Workgroup. He also advises a number of other education groups and organizations.

Peterson is one of only a handful of people who for eight years each has been both the top education advisor to the U.S. Secretary of Education and to a governor. At the U.S. Department of Education, he helped design and lead, for U.S. Secretary of Education Richard W. Riley, a number of major national initiatives ranging from reading to college access and from the 21st Century Community Learning Centers to the Partnership for Family Involvement. He worked on the startup of GEAR-UP, the E-rate, the school modernization proposal and Advanced Placement expansion. He also helped co-found the Arts Education Partnership, the Read*Write*Now campaign, the Pathways to College Network, International Education Week and the America Goes Back to School campaign. With his involvement and the support of many other people, the 21st Century Community Learning Centers initiative grew from serving approximately 1,000 children in afterschool and summer program in 10 schools with a \$1 million federal appropriation in 1998 to serving more than 1,000,000 children and an equal number of families in almost 10,000 school-community partnerships with an appropriation of more than \$1.1 billion in 2010.

As director of education in the South Carolina governor's office, Peterson oversaw issues from preschool to medical education. He was the lead staff person for a widely praised statewide \$2 billion, 7-year education improvement package that included early childhood initiatives; a statewide teacher recruitment center; gifted programs for academically and artistically talented students; expansion of Advance Placement course availability and accessibility; school, principal and teacher performance pay programs; innovation funds for teachers and schools; new education accountability systems; and the arts in the basic curriculum.

“There is certainly no one more deserving of a lifetime achievement award in the service of helping children succeed and thrive, than Terry,” said Afterschool Alliance Executive Director Jodi Grant. “His commitment to and his long career in service of ensuring that our nation’s children and youth have every opportunity to learn new things, develop important skills and grow up to be important contributors to their communities and to our society is truly inspirational.”

The William S. White Achievement award, established in 2005, is named after the C.S. Mott Foundation’s president, who led the Foundation in coordinating a public-partnership with the U.S. Department of Education to provide high quality enrichment and learning opportunities for children through the 21st Century Community Learning Center initiative. The annual award is given to individuals and programs dedicated to excellence in the service of children, schools and communities. In addition to White, past honorees include Philip Coltoff, former CEO and executive director of the Children's Aid Society in New York City and Bonnie Reiss, who helped craft legislation in California to fund afterschool activities in all state elementary and middle-schools and is currently the Secretary of Education in California. In recent years, the Mott Foundation has partnered with the U.S. Department of Education to recognize exemplary 21st CCLC grantees that exemplify the goals of a 21st CCLC grant, and have demonstrated an ability to sustain and grow the program over a number of years. In 2010, the Mott Foundation returns to recognizing an outstanding individual who has contributed decades of work in service of afterschool and the children, schools and communities that benefit.

“Terry Peterson’s passion for education is matched by his remarkable ability to excite and engage others in building student opportunity and achievement,” said White. “In presenting Terry with this award, we honor and celebrate the impacts of his work to help the country’s young people develop the skills and tools needed for success.”

The son of the late Florence and Morgan Peterson of Medford, Wisconsin, Peterson is a 1963 graduate of Medford High School and a 1967 graduate of the University of Wisconsin at Madison in education and chemistry. He has a Master's (1974) and Ph.D. (1978) from the University of South Carolina. He started his education career teaching at the elementary and secondary education level in Wisconsin, in the jungles of Brazil and in South Carolina. He also has been a parent involvement specialist and the head of a statewide education oversight committee.

The 2010 NAA Convention/*Afterschool for All Challenge* is sponsored by: JCPenney Afterschool Fund, United States Tennis Association, Bright House Networks, Quaker Chewy,

Torani, Sony Pictures Entertainment, Open Society Institute, Peavey Electronics, NAMM, The Annie E. Casey Foundation, D.C. Children & Youth Investment Trust Corporation, and Cable in the Classroom, Council on Accreditation, and National Summer Learning Association.

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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.