



NEWS RELEASE
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Afterschool Alliance Welcomes Education Leader and Afterschool Supporter Gerard Robinson to Its Board of Directors

Former Florida Education Commissioner and Virginia Education Secretary Joins Advocacy Group's Board

WASHINGTON, DC – The Afterschool Alliance today announced the appointment of Gerard Robinson to its board of directors. Robinson brings a wealth of experience in education and public policy, having served as an educator, state education executive, and a resident fellow at the American Enterprise Institute.

“We’re delighted to bring Gerard Robinson’s deep knowledge and broad experience to our board of directors,” said Afterschool Alliance Executive Director Jodi Grant. “He’s seen the nation’s education system from a variety of vantage points and we welcome that wealth of experience to our board. He shares our conviction that afterschool programs keep kids safe, inspire them to learn and give parents peace of mind, and serve a vital role in the lives of children, families and communities of all kinds.”

“I am honored to join the board of the Afterschool Alliance,” Robinson said. “As a young man coming of age in Los Angeles during the 1970s, afterschool programs were tremendously important to my development. Today, young people and their families in urban and rural communities nationwide deserve access to afterschool programs that support their development. The Afterschool Alliance is an important stakeholder in this conversation.”

Robinson first saw the power of afterschool programs as a volunteer in two District of Columbia Public School initiatives while an undergraduate student at Howard University in the late 1980s, and as a 5th grade teacher in Los Angeles in the early 1990s. He also witnessed their positive impact on students as an instructor at a Jersey City afterschool program, noting that students in the program passed required graduation exams at a higher rate than their peers. As a Secretary of Education in Virginia and Commissioner of Education in Florida, he oversaw the distribution of afterschool funding.

Robinson joins a board that features leaders from the education, industry and public policy sectors:

- Dr. Terry Peterson, Afterschool Alliance Co-Chair, Senior Fellow, Richard Riley Institute at Furman University and College of Charleston, Charleston, South Carolina;
- Lisa Lucheta, Afterschool Alliance Co-Chair, Principal, Torani/R. Torre & Co., San Francisco, California;
- Jean Margaret Smith, Afterschool Alliance Secretary, S.V.P. of Public Affairs & Administration, Nickelodeon/MTVN Kids & Family Group
- Reinaldo Llano, Afterschool Alliance Treasurer, Founder, Dynamic Social Responsibility, Orlando, Florida;

- The Honorable David Cicilline, Member of Congress, Providence, Rhode Island;
- John Danielson, internationally respected executive, co-founder of the Chartwell Education Group, LLC, District of Columbia;
- The Honorable Karl Dean, Former Mayor, Metropolitan Government of Nashville and Davidson County, Nashville, Tennessee;
- Barry D. Ford, Esq., Executive Director, Council for a Strong America, Bethesda, Maryland;
- Dr. Lucy Friedman, Visiting Fellow, The Pinkerton Foundation;
- Marcus Goodwin, Director, Neighborhood Development Company, Washington, D.C.;
- Tim Hwang, Founder and CEO, FiscalNote, District of Columbia;
- Gilbert Moreno, Independent Consultant, Houston, Texas;
- Heather Nesle, President, New York Life Foundation/Vice President, New York Life Insurance Company;
- Gerard Robinson, Executive Director, Center for Advancing Opportunity, Washington, D.C.;
- Ray Sanborn, President, Kama'aina Kids; Kailua, Hawaii;
- Herb Sturz, Senior Advisor, Open Society Foundations, New York, New York; and
- Stacey Gillis Weber, active supporter of education causes, New York, New York.

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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.