

MEDIA ALERT September 15, 2011 CONTACT: Luci Manning 202/371-1999

New Report Will Examine Impact of STEM Learning in Afterschool

Afterschool Alliance to Release Analysis at Congressional Briefing Monday

With study after study showing that children in the United States are behind students in other countries in learning science, technology, engineering and math (STEM), what role do afterschool programs play in engaging students in these subjects? The Afterschool Alliance will release a new report, "STEM Learning in Afterschool: An Analysis of Impact and Outcomes" that answers those and other questions at a congressional briefing Monday. The report examines evaluation studies from a sample of afterschool STEM programs across the country, deriving aggregate trends to examine the impact of STEM learning in afterschool.

Also at the briefing, experts from Time Warner Cable, Science Club for Girls and The Center for Informal Learning and Schools at the San Francisco Exploratorium museum will discuss the corporate interest in afterschool as a setting for STEM education, the impact of STEM learning on girls, and recent research examining how afterschool fosters interest and proficiency in STEM skills. The briefing – 21st Century Community Learning Centers: Improving STEM Education During Out-of-School Time – will be at:

2:00 PM Monday, September 19 U.S. Capitol Visitors Center SVC 208-209 WITH

- Fernando Laguarda, Vice President, External Affairs and Policy Counselor, Time Warner Cable
- Connie Chow, Ph.D., Executive Director, Science Club for Girls
- Bronwyn Bevan, Ph.D., Director, Center for Informal Learning and Schools, Exploratorium
- Afterschool Alliance Executive Director Jodi Grant; and Director of STEM Policy Anita Krishnamurthi, Ph.D.

Afterschool programs offer an opportunity to reach underserved populations who currently do not have access to enrichment opportunities, like STEM afterschool programs, that supplement and complement the school day. Last November, the Afterschool Alliance, National AfterSchool Association and National Summer Learning Association announced an unprecedented collaboration to make 2011 The Year of Science in Afterschool.

The congressional briefing is co-sponsored by the Senate and House Afterschool Caucuses.

####