



NEWS RELEASE
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Afterschool Alliance Honors Nine State Champions at “Breakfast of Champions” on Capitol Hill

*Educators, Policy Makers, Philanthropists and Advocates Recognized for
Championing Afterschool at Eleventh Annual Afterschool for All Challenge in
Washington, DC*

WASHINGTON, D.C. – The Afterschool Alliance today honored nine individuals for their tireless and extraordinary support for the afterschool programs that keep kids safe, inspire them to learn and help working families. The nine were honored at the “Breakfast of Champions,” a gala event in Washington, D.C. featuring actor Kevin Sorbo and Project Exploration co-founders Dr. Paul Sereno and Dr. Gabrielle Lyon. The eight Afterschool State Champions are from all across the country and because of their efforts, more children and families have access to quality afterschool programs.

The 2012 Afterschool State Champions are:

- **California:** Jennifer Peck, Executive Director, Partnership for Children and Youth
- **Florida:** Claudia Davant, Managing Partner, Adams St. Advocates
- **Kansas:** Dr. Elaine Johannes, Associate Professor, Kansas State University
- **Nevada:** Olivia Diaz, Assemblywoman, Nevada State Legislature
- **New York:** Lena Townsend, Executive Director, Robert Bowne Foundation
- **New York:** Anne Lawrence, Program Officer, Robert Bowne Foundation
- **Ohio:** Dr. Monica J. Mitchell, Associate Professor of Pediatrics and Co-Director of INNOVATIONS, Cincinnati Children’s Hospital & Medical Center
- **Pennsylvania:** Dr. Kathryn Hynes, Assistant Professor, Penn State University

The “Breakfast of Champions” is part of the eleventh annual *Afterschool for All Challenge*, sponsored by the Afterschool Alliance, which brings together hundreds of parents, educators, children, program directors and advocates from around the country for a series of events and meetings with Members of Congress. Following the Breakfast, participants fanned out across Capitol Hill to meet with their representatives and senators to discuss the importance of afterschool programs to children, families and communities.

“These outstanding champions are working in areas such as research, policy development and advocacy in settings as diverse as universities, foundations, state government and other organizations to ensure that kids have somewhere safe, supervised, educational and inspiring to go after school,” said Afterschool Alliance Executive Director Jodi Grant. “There’s an enormous

body of research proving that afterschool programs are successful in keeping kids engaged in school, helping them learn and even encouraging them to explore possible careers. That's why it's more important than ever for us all to do whatever we can, in whatever forums are available to us, to be champions for afterschool."

The 2012 *Afterschool for All Challenge* is generously sponsored by: United States Tennis Association, the NAMM Foundation, Peavey Electronics, Cable in the Classroom, National AfterSchool Association and Arnold and Sandra Grant. Additional funding is provided by Torani and the C.S. Mott Foundation.

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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.