



NEWS RELEASE
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Tallahassee Public Policy Expert Honored as an Afterschool Champion in Nation's Capital

*Parents, Educators, Students, Afterschool Leaders
Urge Congress to Safeguard Afterschool Funding, Increase Afterschool Investments*

WASHINGTON, D.C. – The Afterschool Alliance today honored Claudia Davant, Managing Partner of Adams St. Advocates in Tallahassee, for her support of afterschool programs. Davant was named a State Afterschool Champion 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. Davant has been a leader in ensuring access to afterschool programs for low-income children. She was one of just eight state champions from around the country honored at the Breakfast for supporting and working on behalf of afterschool programs. The Florida AfterSchool Network nominated her for the honor.

Davant helped lead the charge to prevent the passage of legislative proposals that would have made 32,000 low-income children ineligible for participation in the afterschool programs they were enrolled in. She met with legislators and facilitated reshaping of the proposals by the Florida AfterSchool Network and other advocates for children and education so that those proposals met their goals for improving children’s school readiness without blocking access to important afterschool programs.

“There is no doubt that without Claudia Davant’s passion and commitment to quality afterschool initiatives, children currently enrolled in Florida’s School Readiness programs, as well as future afterschool enrollees, would find the doors closed,” said Larry Pintacuda, Project Director of the Florida AfterSchool Network. “Her work has not only benefited more than 30,000 students and families, but she has also helped to position the Florida AfterSchool Network to be an even stronger voice in shaping policy decisions in Florida.”

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 talk to Members of Congress about the importance of afterschool programs to children, families and communities.

“This year’s champions are working in a 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.”

Other state champions honored at the *Afterschool for All Challenge* are: Jennifer Peck, Executive Director, Partnership for Children and Youth in California; Dr. Elaine Johannes, Associate Professor, Kansas State University; Olivia Diaz, Assemblywoman, Nevada State Legislature; Lena Townsend, Executive Director, Robert Bowne Foundation in New York; Anne Lawrence, Program Officer, Robert Bowne Foundation; Dr. Monica J. Mitchell, Associate Professor of Pediatrics and Co-Director of INNOVATIONS, Cincinnati Children’s Hospital & Medical Center; and Dr. Kathryn Hynes, Assistant Professor, Penn State University.

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.