



**NEWS RELEASE**  
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**CONTACT:** Gretchen Wright  
202/371-1999

## **T-Mobile Sponsors Seattle Youth At Afterschool Alliance Event in Washington, D.C. Next Week**

### **Lake Washington Girls Middle School Student to Address Members of Congress on the Importance of Afterschool Programs**

WASHINGTON, D.C., May 9, 2008 --- Lake Washington Girls Middle School student and Garfield Community Center Teen Program participant Jaida Morgan will spend May 13 and 14 in our nation's capital learning about advocacy and urging lawmakers to increase funding for afterschool programs, the Afterschool Alliance announced today. T-Mobile USA is sponsoring the seventh grader's trip to participate in the Afterschool Alliance's seventh annual *Afterschool for All Challenge*.

"T-Mobile is proud to support afterschool programs, which keep children safe, inspire them to learn and help working families," said Glenn Zaccara, T-Mobile senior manager, corporate responsibility. "We are so happy to give a young leader like Jaida the chance to come to Washington, D.C. and speak out for the afterschool programs that inspire her and millions of other students in Seattle and across the country."

Morgan will join hundreds of parents, children, educators and advocates from around the country at the two-day *Challenge*. On Tuesday, she will participate in a special youth leadership training to prepare to meet with Members of Congress. On Wednesday, she will attend a "Breakfast of Champions," at which the Afterschool Alliance will present awards to afterschool champions and innovative afterschool programs.

"I'm excited to have the opportunity to come to Washington and let my elected representatives know how important afterschool programs are for kids and their families," said Morgan. "My program gives me a chance to get my homework done and do some extra credit work, too. It's also a place where kids are safe and busy after school, so they stay out of trouble. That means that communities benefit from afterschool programs, too. I'm very grateful to T-Mobile for this wonderful opportunity and for supporting afterschool programs."

After the "Breakfast of Champions," Morgan will join other afterschool advocates as they fan out across Capitol Hill to meet with Members of Congress and congressional staff. In the meetings, advocates will discuss the benefits offered by afterschool programs and urge Congress to reject the President's proposal to cut the 21<sup>st</sup> Century Community Learning Centers initiative (21<sup>st</sup> CCLC) and convert it to a voucher system. The 21<sup>st</sup> CCLC is the chief federal funding stream for afterschool.

“Parents, children and communities rely on afterschool programs to keep kids safe, inspire them to learn and help working families,” said Afterschool Alliance Executive Director Jodi Grant. “But federal funding isn’t keeping up with the demand for afterschool, and President Bush proposes to cut federal afterschool funding even further. We’re in our nation’s capital this week to honor afterschool champions and remind lawmakers that these cuts are short-sighted and counterproductive. All kids need the opportunities that afterschool programs provide. I’m delighted that Jaida will be with us next week to talk with her elected officials about how important afterschool programs have been in her life. We are enormously grateful to T-Mobile for making her trip possible.”

This year, President Bush proposed cutting the federal budget for afterschool programs by \$281 million and converting the successful 21<sup>st</sup> Century Community Learning Centers afterschool initiative (21<sup>st</sup> CCLC) into a risky voucher system. If Congress agrees to his proposal, 300,000 students would lose access to afterschool programs.

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#### **About the Afterschool Alliance**

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](http://www.afterschoolalliance.org).

#### **About T-Mobile USA, Inc.**

Based in Bellevue, Wash., T-Mobile USA, Inc. is a member of the T-Mobile International group, one of the world's leading companies in mobile communications, and the mobile telecommunications subsidiary of Deutsche Telekom AG. At the end of December 2006, more than 106 million mobile customers were served by companies of the Deutsche Telekom group – 25 million by T-Mobile USA – all via a common technology platform based on GSM, the world's most successful digital wireless standard. T-Mobile’s innovative wireless products and services help empower people to connect effortlessly to those who matter most. Multiple independent research studies continue to rank T-Mobile highest, in numerous regions throughout the U.S., in wireless call quality and wireless customer care. For more information, please visit the company's Web site at <http://www.t-mobile.com>. T-Mobile(R) is a federally registered trademark.

#### **About T-Mobile Huddle Up**

T-Mobile Huddle Up is T-Mobile USA’s community outreach program connecting kids, primarily from single-parent families in high-need, urban communities to positive people, places and programs. T-Mobile Huddle Up focuses on addressing the need for quality afterschool spaces and programs for youth to grow and stay connected to positive people and places. To help kids reach their potential and improve communities nationwide, T-Mobile has established long-term partnerships with two leading national non-profit organizations – City Year and the Afterschool Alliance.