



NEWS RELEASE
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**Afterschool Alliance Presents Time Warner
With Afterschool Champion Award at Congressional Ceremony**

***Nation's Leading Afterschool Advocacy Organization Honors
Time Warner for Vigorous Support of Afterschool***

WASHINGTON, DC – The Afterschool Alliance today presented its annual Afterschool Champion Award to Time Warner at a Congressional Breakfast in Washington, D.C. The award recognized the company's ongoing efforts to sustain creative and energetic afterschool programs across the country, through a focused program of giving at the national and local levels.

"Time Warner has set a high standard for corporate and foundation support for afterschool," said Judy Y. Samelson, Executive Director of the Afterschool Alliance. "Not just with their dollars, but with their hearts, Time Warner is becoming a cornerstone of the afterschool movement in the U.S. today. The company's generous support for the YMCA of the USA and Girls Incorporated, coupled with its support for local afterschool programs across the nation, is supporting afterschool opportunities for children from coast to coast. On behalf of the afterschool movement, we thank Time Warner for its support and for doing so much to help our children."

"Time Warner's support for afterschool programs reflects our company's commitment to helping young people acquire the skills and competencies they need to succeed," said Pam Stevens, Time Warner's Vice President for Programs, in accepting the award. "In addition to building skills that are important for academic success, afterschool programs enable kids to connect with their communities and develop positive relationships with their peers and adults. As a company, we have a very real obligation to help expand opportunities for America's next generation, and afterschool at its best does just that. We're grateful for the Afterschool Alliance's recognition, and even more grateful to the thousands of afterschool providers across the country who are doing such inspiring work for our children."

Time Warner and the Time Warner Foundation have made an ongoing commitment to afterschool programming in the United States. Time Warner invests in afterschool or other youth programs that involve hands-on learning, leadership development, decision-making opportunities, and skill building. Its grant recipients include national and community-based afterschool organizations that engage in the creative and media arts and prepare underserved teens for college; organizations that work to raise awareness of the need for quality after-school programs; and efforts to foster leadership opportunities for public school students in selected cities.

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In all its philanthropic efforts, Time Warner focuses on areas where its expertise can have the greatest impact, and in its corporate life and culture, the company promotes an ethic of volunteerism and civic engagement.

The Afterschool Champion Award was presented during the Afterschool Alliance's annual *Breakfast of Champions*, part of its Afterschool for All Challenge on Capitol Hill. More than 300 afterschool providers and advocates participated in the *Breakfast*, joined by more than a dozen Members of Congress. In addition to Time Warner, the Afterschool Alliance honored: Nortel Networks Kidz Online; the 21st Century Afterschool Program at Geary County Schools in Junction City, Kansas; the Farrell and Sharon School District 21st Century Community Learning Centers C.O.O.L. (Children's Opportunities for Outside Learning) Program in Pennsylvania; and the Richland County School District One After School Programs in South Carolina.

After the *Breakfast of Champions*, participants fanned out across Capitol Hill to urge lawmakers to support full funding for the 21st Century Community Learning Centers initiative, the federal government's chief funding stream for afterschool programs across the nation. The President has proposed freezing afterschool funding at \$1 billion for the fourth consecutive year. If approved, the proposal would leave afterschool funding at just half the level promised in the landmark "No Child Left Behind Act of 2001." Full funding for afterschool at the authorized \$2 billion level would create afterschool opportunities for an addition 1.4 million children. Millions more children who need afterschool programs do not have access to them.

A new Afterschool Alliance household survey, funded by the JCPenney Afterschool Fund and released this week, found that more than 14 million K-12 youth are responsible for taking care of themselves after school, and these children spend an average of nearly seven afternoon hours per week unsupervised. Afterschool programs offer young people safe, enriching, fun and engaging places to go once the school day ends. Research shows that afterschool programs are a good investment. Youth who participate have been shown to perform better in school and to hold greater expectations for the future, while children who are unsupervised during the afternoons are at greater risk of becoming involved with crime, substance abuse and teenage pregnancy.

The event is sponsored by the Afterschool Alliance, a nonprofit public awareness and advocacy organization supported by a group of public, private, and nonprofit entities working to ensure that all children and youth have access to afterschool programs by 2010. Information is available at www.afterschoolalliance.org

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