



NEWS RELEASE
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San Francisco Celebrity Chef Tyler Florence Joins Board of Afterschool Alliance

WASHINGTON, DC – The Afterschool Alliance today announced the appointment of Tyler Florence to its board of directors. The San Francisco-based Florence is the star of numerous Food Network shows, a frequent contributor to national television, radio and Internet programs and an acclaimed cookbook author. He is an active supporter of afterschool programs and of the Afterschool Alliance.

“Tyler Florence brings more than just star quality to his service with the Afterschool Alliance,” said Afterschool Alliance Executive Director Jodi Grant. “He brings a parent’s understanding of the value of afterschool programs, and a commitment to work toward making quality afterschool available to all children who need it. We are thrilled to have the chance to work with him.”

“I’m delighted to join with the Afterschool Alliance in advocating for afterschool programs and the children and families they serve,” Florence said. “Afterschool programs are vital to our communities, in San Francisco and around the nation. They give children nutritious snacks and opportunities for physical fitness and sports, as well as keeping them safe and inspiring them to learn. They are a lifesaver for working parents. But we don’t have nearly enough afterschool programs, and we need to fix that. I’m looking forward to working with the Afterschool Alliance to create and expand afterschool opportunities for America’s schoolchildren.”

Florence will be in Washington, D.C. on May 13 and 14, at the Afterschool Alliance’s annual *Afterschool for All Challenge*. The two-day series of activities will bring together hundreds of afterschool leaders and advocates from around the nation for meetings with members of Congress, and information-sharing sessions with afterschool experts. Florence will speak at the “Breakfast of Champions,” the kick-off event for the second day. Co-sponsored by the Afterschool Alliance and the National League of Cities, the “Breakfast” will honor afterschool champions from coast to coast. Florence will then meet with members of Congress to urge them to increase funding for the 21st Century Community Learning Centers initiative – the principal federal funding stream for afterschool programs.

Florence incorporates both tradition and innovation in his culinary creations, and has become one of the most popular young chefs in the country. He has been recognized as a leading chef by publications such as *Bon Appetit*, *Food & Wine*, *GQ*, *Wall Street Journal*, *USA Weekend*, and *InStyle*, and was named the “Sexiest Chef Alive,” by *People Magazine*. He made his television

debut in 1996 with guest appearances on The Food Network, and has since become a key contributor to the channel, currently celebrating his 12th year on the network with three shows, *How to Boil Water*, *Food 911*, and *Tyler's Ultimate*. Florence has hosted numerous other Food Network shows, and appeared on CNN, E!, *The View*, *The Tonight Show*, *Wayne Brady*, *Access Hollywood*, *Extra*, *Good Morning America* and more.

He graduated with honors from the College of Culinary Arts at Johnson & Wales University in South Carolina. In 2005, the institution created a scholarship program in his name, and awarded Florence an honorary doctorate. He has two new cookbooks on the verge of publication, *Tyler's Ultimate Kitchen Handbook*, and *Tyler's Ultimate – Dinner at my Place*, both of which will be released in October.

In September 2007, Florence teamed with chef Joey Altman to host a *Celebrity Chef Cook-Off at Jack Falstaff* in San Francisco to benefit the Afterschool Alliance. Altman's wife Jaemie Ballesteros Altman, a restaurant consultant, also serves on the Afterschool Alliance's board of directors.

In addition to Florence, the Afterschool Alliance board includes **Terry Peterson**, Afterschool Alliance Chairman, Director, Afterschool and Community Learning Resource Network, Charleston, South Carolina; **Jaemie Ballesteros Altman**, Independent Consultant, Food and Restaurant Industry, San Francisco, California; **The Honorable David Cicilline**, Mayor, City of Providence, Rhode Island; **Dr. Lucy Friedman**, President, The After-School Corporation, New York, New York; **Glenda E. Hood**, former Secretary of State of Florida and former Mayor of Orlando, Florida; **Donna Klein**, President/CEO, Corporate Voices for Working Families, Washington, D.C.; **Reinaldo Llano**, Director, Corporate Community Relations, Bright House Networks, Orlando, Florida; **Lisa Lucheta**, Principal, Torani Syrups and Flavors, San Francisco, California; **Kenneth C. Montague, Jr.**, former Secretary of Juvenile Justice, State of Maryland, Baltimore, Maryland; **Gilbert Moreno**, Senior Relationship Manager, JP Morgan Chase, NA, Houston, Texas; **Mary Peavey**, President, Peavey Electronics Corporation, Meridian, Mississippi; **Herb Sturz**, Trustee, Open Society Institute, New York, New York; and **Kevin Walker**, Associate Vice President, Programs, CS Mott Foundation, Flint, Michigan.

With offices in Washington, D.C. and New York City, the Afterschool Alliance works at the national, state and local levels to make quality, affordable afterschool programs available to all families. It organizes *Lights On Afterschool*, the only nationwide rally for afterschool programs, which is held each October. The 9th annual *Lights On Afterschool* will be October 16.

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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.