



NEWS RELEASE
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Afterschool Alliance Names Jeanne Yoho Miller Afterschool Advocate One of Just 20 ‘Afterschool Ambassadors’ from Across Nation

The Afterschool Alliance today announced that Jeanne Yoho Miller Director of the Lehigh Carbon Community College SHINE 21st Century After-School Program has been selected to serve as a 2011-2012 Afterschool Ambassador. Jeanne is one of just 20 local leaders from 17 states chosen for the honor this year. Each Ambassador will continue directing or supporting a local afterschool program while also serving a one-year Afterschool Ambassador term organizing public events, communicating with policy makers, and building support for afterschool programs.

“Quality afterschool programs are invaluable to students, families and communities,” said Afterschool Alliance Executive Director Jodi Grant. “These programs keep kids safe, help working families and inspire students to learn. But in Washington, D.C. and all across the country, the afterschool programs that families rely on are being threatened by budget cuts and efforts to divert afterschool funds to other programs. We need to spread the word about the urgent need to make opportunities to attend afterschool programs available to all children who need them. Jeanne will bring great skill and energy to that work in her role as an Afterschool Ambassador. I look forward to working with her to build even stronger support for afterschool programs among parents, business and community leaders, lawmakers and others.”

“I am delighted to have this chance to help increase support for afterschool programs, which give students opportunities to explore their interests and give parents the security that comes with knowing that their children are safe and supervised, with engaging, educational activities after the school day ends,” said Miller. “Afterschool programs are critical to students’ success in school, to families trying to surviving in this recession, and to America’s workforce in the future. We need to strengthen the afterschool programs we have and ensure that there is a program for every child who needs one.”

Ms. Miller has been the Director of the LCCC SHINE 21st Century After-School program for the past 8 years. The program serves 500 children and 1,000 adults in 6 after-school centers during the school year and in the summer. SHINE provides academic support to students in 5 public schools / 4 parochial schools over 500 rural square miles in Carbon and Schuylkill County in Northeast PA. The SHINE Program was one of 9 programs highlighted during a Congressional briefing in Washington D.C. on September 19th for its effective evaluations on increased knowledge and skills in science, technology, engineering and math (STEM.) The success of the

SHINE After-School Program lies in the “Whatever it takes,” philosophy for students to succeed adopted by SHINE teachers and administrators.

Each Ambassador will organize a major event for *Lights on Afterschool*, the Afterschool Alliance’s 12th annual national rally for afterschool, to be held on October 20 this year. Last year, a million people participated in some 7,500 *Lights on Afterschool* events across the United States and at U.S. military bases worldwide. .

The Afterschool Alliance is a private-public partnership that was established in 2000 by the Charles Stewart Mott Foundation, the United States Department of Education, J.C. Penney Company Inc. the Open Society Institute / The After-School Corporation, the Entertainment Industry Foundation and the Creative Artist Agency Foundation More information is available at www.afterschoolalliance.org.