



Afterschool Ambassador Program: Legacy of Leadership

NEWS RELEASE
September 26, 2011

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Afterschool Alliance Names Pamela Brasher, Director, with Santee School District Out-of-School Time Programs One of Just 20 ‘Afterschool Ambassadors’ from Across Nation

Pamela Brasher Will Work in San Diego County and Nationally to Expand Afterschool Programs

Washington, DC – The Afterschool Alliance today announced that Pamela Brasher, Director of Out-of-School Time Programs for the Santee School District has been selected to serve as a 2011-2012 Afterschool Ambassador. She 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. Pam 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 Brasher. “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.”

Santee School District’s Out-of-School Time Programs serves over 900 children and youth each day. These afterschool programs strive to support what the child is learning during the day in their classroom and to provide care and opportunities to participate in enrichment activities during the critical afterschool hours while parents are still working. Her programs is also

working to bring fine arts back to school campuses with an Art and Music program available for all families.

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. Afterschool programs are under intense pressure this year, with the Senate considering legislation that would divert some of the already limited afterschool funds to other programs.

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.

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