



Afterschool Ambassador Program: Legacy of Leadership

NEWS RELEASE
September 8, 2015

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Burnsville's Kibler Selected as One of Just 15 'Afterschool Ambassadors' from Across Nation

Christian Kibler Will Work in Minnesota and Nationally to Make Afterschool Available to More Students

Washington, DC – The Afterschool Alliance today announced that Christian Kibler, Program Coordinator of the Burnsville Youth Collaborative, has been selected to serve as a 2015-2016 Afterschool Ambassador. He is one of just 15 leaders from across the country to be chosen for the honor this year. Each Afterschool Ambassador will continue directing or supporting a local afterschool program while also serving the one-year Afterschool Ambassador term, organizing public events, communicating with policy makers, and building support for afterschool programs.

“We are so pleased to have Christian serving as an Afterschool Ambassador this year,” said Afterschool Alliance Executive Director Jodi Grant. “He will mobilize even more support for quality afterschool and summer learning programs among parents, business and community leaders, lawmakers, educators and others in Burnsville and across Minnesota. Quality afterschool programs keep students safe, inspire them to learn and help working families. They offer young people hands-on, team-based learning opportunities, help with homework, science and technology activities, opportunities for sports and fitness, access to healthy snacks and meals, and much more. I look forward to working with Christian this year to bring us closer to the day when every child will have the chance to participate in an afterschool program.”

“I am excited to have this chance to help increase support for afterschool and expanded learning programs, which give students opportunities to explore their interests and passions 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 and during the summer,” said Kibler. “High quality afterschool programs are critical to students’ success in school, to their safety, to working families, and to the nation’s workforce and its economy. We need to increase resources for high quality afterschool programs and work toward the day when high-quality programs are available for every child who needs one.”

The Burnsville Youth Collaborative has served more than 150 middle-school age students since its first day of programming in November 2014. The Burnsville Youth Collaborative (BYC) is a partnership between Burnsville-Eagan-Savage ISD #191, the City of Burnsville, and the Minnesota Valley YMCA. These organizations have used their separate resources to create a

new and exciting afterschool initiative in Burnsville to provide leadership for local organizations and to partner with young people to develop, empower, and prepare them for success.

Each Ambassador will organize a major event for *Lights On Afterschool*, the Afterschool Alliance's annual rally for afterschool, to be held on October 22 this year. Last year, 1 million people participated in some 8,000 *Lights On Afterschool* events across the United States and at U.S. military bases worldwide.

The 2015-2016 Afterschool Ambassadors are:

- **Alabama:** Dr. Michael Wilson, Principal, Glen Iris Elementary School in Birmingham;
- **Colorado:** Patrick Wilhelm, Site Coordinator, Scholars Unlimited in Denver;
- **Connecticut:** Mark Fopeano, Program Manager, Dwight Hall at Yale in New Haven;
- **Indiana:** Brigitte Gurden, Executive Director, Boys & Girls Club of Morgan County in Mooresville;
- **Louisiana:** Patricia Johnson, Project Director, 21st Century Community Learning Centers, Monroe City Schools in Monroe;
- **Maryland:** Kat Stork, Deputy Director, Caroline County Recreation & Parks in Denton;
- **Minnesota:** Christian Kibler, Program Coordinator, Burnsville Youth Collaborative in Burnsville;
- **Mississippi:** Jannette Adams, Project Director, 21st Century Afterschool Academy, Columbus Municipal School District in Columbus;
- **Missouri:** Colleen Abbott, Director, Learning Enriched Afterschool Programs in Eldon;
- **New York:** Marcel Braithwaite, Director of Center Operations, The Police Athletic League in New York City;
- **Oklahoma:** Kim Templeman, Principal, Central Oak Elementary in Oklahoma City;
- **Tennessee:** Kelly Drummond, Vice President of Human Resources and Administration at Boys & Girls Clubs of the Tennessee Valley in Knoxville;
- **Virginia:** Allyson Graul, Director of Youth Civic Engagement, Alternatives, Inc. in Fort Monroe;
- **Washington:** Beth Wyant, Program Coordinator, Northwest Community Action Center, a division of Yakima Valley FarmWorkers Clinic in Toppenish; and
- **West Virginia:** Kasey Carter, Executive Director, Communities In Schools of Greenbrier County in Lewisburg.

A large and growing body of evidence demonstrates improvements in attendance, behavior, academic achievement and more among children in afterschool programs. Researchers have also found that afterschool programs encourage increased parental involvement – an important building block for student success.

The 2014 “[America After 3PM](#)” household survey of more than 30,000 families, commissioned by the Afterschool Alliance, found that participation in afterschool programs increased to 10.2 million students nationwide, up from 6.5 million in 2004. But the unmet demand for afterschool programs has increased as well. Today, for every child in an afterschool program, there are two more whose parents say they would participate, if a program were available. One in five students in the United States today is unsupervised after the school day ends.

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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.