



Afterschool Ambassador Program: Legacy of Leadership

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Greenville's Friedel Chosen as One of Just 15 'Afterschool Ambassadors' in United States This Year

Johanna Friedel Will Work in Texas and Nationally to Increase Access to Afterschool Programs

Washington, DC – The Afterschool Alliance today announced that Johanna Friedel, Director at the Greenville ISD ACE has been selected to serve as a 2018-2019 Afterschool Ambassador. She is one of just 15 leaders in the country who was chosen for the honor this year, and one of two in Texas. Each Afterschool Ambassador will continue leading a local afterschool program while also serving a one-year Afterschool Ambassador term, organizing public events, communicating with policy makers and in other ways growing awareness and support for afterschool and summer learning programs.

“We’re thrilled that Friedel will serve as an Afterschool Ambassador this year,” said Afterschool Alliance Executive Director Jodi Grant. “Now more than ever, with federal funding for quality afterschool and summer learning programs under attack, we need strong advocates like her. She will mobilize parents, educators and business, community and faith leaders, among others, to help safeguard funding for the afterschool programs that keep kids safe, inspire them to learn and help give working families peace of mind. These programs offer hands-on learning opportunities, homework help, mentors, science and technology, healthy snacks and meals, sports and fitness, arts programming, college and job prep, and much more.”

“I am delighted to join in the Afterschool Alliance’s work to build support for afterschool programs,” said Friedel “In my 30+ years working in the field, I’ve seen over and over again the extraordinary difference that afterschool makes in the lives of young people. They help students explore their interests and discover their passions, while giving parents the security that comes from knowing their children are safe and supervised, with opportunities to learn and grow, after the school day ends. I look forward to building support for the out-of-school-time opportunities all students need.”

The Greenville ISD Afterschool Center for Education (ACE) located in Hunt County is funded by the federal 21st Century Community Learning Centers grant and serves more than 1,100 students, 62 percent over what is required by their grant. The program benefits from the collaboration of the school district, local businesses (including some not so local via virtual mentorship programs) and over 40 community-based partners and faith-based organizations. The program offers innovative, engaging programs such as Electrical Engineering, Coding, Ballet, Hydroponics, Basketball, Maker Space, Robotics, Sewing, Knitting and a four-component Academic Hour. Greenville ISD ACE is results-oriented, providing over 4,000 tutoring hours by

certified teachers. Ninety percent of students attending 60 or more days passed all subject areas, 93 percent showed improved attendance, 93 percent exhibited a decrease in negative behaviors, 100 percent were promoted to the next grade level, and 63 percent of High School ACE students reported that they intend to attend college. At Greenville ISD ACE the mission statement of, “We Grow People,” is taken seriously.

Each Ambassador will organize a major event for *Lights On Afterschool*, the Afterschool Alliance’s annual rally for afterschool, to be held on October 25 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 2018-2019 Afterschool Ambassadors are:

- **Alabama:** Andrea Bridges, Education Coordinator, The CARE Center, **New Hope**
- **Alaska:** Heather Schloeman, Executive Director, Boys & Girls Clubs of the Kenai Peninsula, **Kenai**;
- **Arizona:** Mike Cassidy, Youth Services Administrator, City of Surprise Youth Services, **Surprise**;
- **Arizona:** Eva Harlow, Community Education Program Supervisor, Deer Valley Unified School District, **Phoenix**;
- **Georgia:** Chris Bass, Community Schools Division Manager, Columbus Parks and Recreation, **Columbus**;
- **Georgia:** Michael “Bull” Brown, Coffee County 21st CCLC Program Director, Coffee County 21st CCLC/ Boys and Girls Club of Coffee County Region, **Douglas**;
- **Indiana:** Desiree Frederick, Unit Director, Boys & Girls Club of Huntington County, Huntington;
- **Maine:** Jenn Carter, Program Director, Lewiston 21st Century, **Lewiston**;
- **Missouri:** Mark Cowsert, Program Director, Tiger Academy-Hollister Schools, **Hollister**;
- **Nevada:** McKenna Hines, 21st Century District Data Coordinator, 21st Century Community Learning Center – Southside Elementary, **Elko**;
- **Nevada:** Jessica Knudson, 21st Century Community Learning Centers, Mendoza Elementary School, **Las Vegas**
- **South Dakota:** Billy Mawhiney, Director of Operations, Boys & Girls Clubs of the Sioux Empire, Sioux Falls;
- **Texas:** Johanna L. Friedel, M.Ed., Director, Afterschool Center of Education at Greenville ISD, **Greenville**;
- **Texas:** Jack Garcia, Afterschool Program Director, San Benito Consolidated Independent School District Afterschool Program, **San Benito**;
- **Vermont:** Christy Gallese, Director of Expanded Learning Opportunities, Burlington School District, **Burlington**.

The [America After 3PM](#) household survey of more than 30,000 families, commissioned by the Afterschool Alliance, found that participation in afterschool programs has 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. Unmet demand is especially high in rural communities and communities of concentrated poverty. One in five students in the United States today is unsupervised after the school day ends.

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.

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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.

Greenville ISD ACE: “We Grow People!”