



Afterschool Ambassador Program: Legacy of Leadership

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City of South Salt Lake's Kaylee Milliner Chosen to Be One of Just 15 'Afterschool Ambassadors' in the Country This Year

Milliner Will Work in Utah and Nationally to Increase Access to Afterschool Programs

Washington, DC – The Afterschool Alliance today announced that Kaylee Milliner, Center Coordinator at the Promise South Salt Lake's Hser Ner Moo Community and Welcome Center, has been selected to serve as an Afterschool Ambassador for the Afterschool Alliance in 2019-2020. She is one of just 15 leaders in the United States chosen for the honor this year. Ambassadors will continue their work supporting local afterschool programs while serving the one-year Afterschool Ambassador term, organizing public events, communicating with policy makers and community leaders, and in other ways increasing awareness and support for afterschool and summer learning programs.

“We are delighted that Kaylee Milliner will serve as an Afterschool Ambassador this year,” said Afterschool Alliance Executive Director Jodi Grant. “With federal funding for quality afterschool and summer learning programs at risk, we need strong advocates like Kaylee. Her work will mobilize parents, educators and business, community and faith leaders, among others, to send the message that afterschool programs are vital to the future of our children, families, and communities. Afterschool programs keep kids safe, inspire them to learn and help give working families peace of mind. They offer hands-on learning opportunities, opportunities to think critically and collaborate, homework help, mentors, science and technology, healthy snacks and meals, sports and fitness, arts programming, college and job prep, and much more.”

“I am eager to join the Afterschool Alliance in building support for afterschool programs,” said Milliner. “In my three years working in the field, I've seen time and again the extraordinary difference that afterschool makes in the lives of young people in Utah. These programs help students explore their interests, discover their passions, and learn to communicate with peers and adults 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.”

South Salt Lake is home to 6,000 youth under the age of 18, and 37 percent of the population are foreign-born, creating a diverse and vibrant community. Promise South Salt Lake articulates our work as promises representing our highest hopes for our community. Based on very specific research and models of other successful communities, Mayor Wood and the Promise South Salt Lake Leadership Team formulated Three Promises—specifically to accommodate South Salt Lake children, families, residents, and seniors. First, every child has the opportunity to attend

and graduate from college. College is meant to represent any post-secondary aspirations a young person may have including a traditional four-year degree, trade school, military service, etc. Second, every person lives in a safe, clean home and neighborhood. Third, every person has the opportunity to prosper. Our work is accomplished through strategic partnerships with over 100 community partners, including United Way of Salt Lake, Westminster College, and Granite School District.

The 14 South Salt Lake Neighborhood Centers, located in schools and community-based locations, serve South Salt Lake's youth, families, seniors through academic, arts, physical fitness/recreation, social, and cultural programs at no cost through grant dollars and philanthropic donations, such as the 21st Century Community Learning Centers grant program. The centers improve the quality of life and also provide a place for community involvement, volunteerism, and networking.

Promise South Salt Lake works to implement specialized strategies based on relevant data, model/evidence-based curriculums, expand learning and positive youth development opportunities supporting academic, physical, civic, social, and emotional success. Activities in South Salt Lake include high intensity, literacy-focused afterschool programs, structured recreation and service opportunities, intentional reciprocal cultural opportunities, and a broad range of enriching experiences utilizing a cradle to career continuum improving educational and developmental youth outcomes.

Each Ambassador will organize a major event for *Lights On Afterschool*, the Afterschool Alliance's annual rally for afterschool, which will celebrate its 20th anniversary this year. Most *Lights On Afterschool* events will be on or around Thursday, October 24. Last year, 1 million people participated in some 8,000 events across the United States and at U.S. military bases worldwide.

The 2019-2020 Afterschool Ambassadors are:

- **Alaska:** Courtney Havrilek, Lead Coordinator, 21st Century Community Learning Centers, Fairbanks NSB School District, **Fairbanks;**
- **California:** Leslie Einhorn, Founder & Executive Director, CASA (Children's After School Arts), **San Francisco;**
- **Colorado:** Sarah Johnson, Senior Vice President of Education & Arts YouthPower365, **Avon;**
- **Florida:** Suzette L. Harvey, President/CEO, Prime Time Palm Beach County, **Boynton Beach;**
- **Iowa:** Robert C. Reid, Executive Director, Camp Fire Heart of Iowa, **Des Moines;**
- **Michigan:** Willie Buford, Site Manager, Flint & Genesee Chamber of Commerce – YouthQuest, **Flint;**
- **Michigan:** Trevor Davies, Sr. Manager, Forum for Youth Investment, David P. Weikart Center for Youth Program Quality, **Wyoming;**

- **Minnesota:** Nicole Hernandez, Youth Development Director, Children’s Defense Fund Minnesota, **St. Paul;**
- **New Mexico:** Melinda Franco, Director, Lovington Youth Center, **Lovington;**
- **North Carolina,** Abigail Swanger, Family and Community Coordinator, Community Kids Afterschool Program, **Boone;**
- **Ohio:** Lori Garrison, Program Manager, 21st CCLC, Graham Local Schools, **St. Paris;**
- **Tennessee:** Rico X, Vice President of School Age Services, YMCA of Middle Tennessee, **Nashville;**
- **Utah:** Kaylee Milliner, Center Coordinator, Promise South Salt Lake, **Salt Lake City;**
- **Virginia:** Daryle Rodgers, Out-of-School Time Coordinator, Hampton City Schools, **Hampton;** and
- **Wisconsin:** Jennifer Smith, Afterschool Program Manager, Marshfield Clinic Health System, **Marshfield.**

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.

Promise South Salt Lake, a department of the City of South Salt Lake, articulates our work as three goals or "promises," representing our highest hopes for the community. 1) That every young person in our city has the opportunity to attend and to graduate from college, 2) that every resident has a safe, clean home and neighborhood, and 3) that every resident has the opportunity to be healthy and to prosper.