



NEWS RELEASE  
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## **Afterschool Alliance, Association of Science-Technology Centers Form Partnership to Foster Local STEM Collaborations**

Washington, DC —The Afterschool Alliance and the Association of Science-Technology Centers (ASTC) today announced a new partnership to expand hands-on learning in science, technology, engineering and mathematics (STEM) during the after school hours as their Commitment to Action for CGI America, the recently concluded meeting of the Clinton Global Initiative in Chicago. CGI America is an annual event focused on finding solutions that promote economic recovery in the United States, bringing together leaders from the business, foundation, NGO and government sectors to advance a number of domestic objectives, including education and skills development.

The joint effort is designed to foster collaboration between afterschool programs around the nation and the ASTC's network of science centers, museums, nature centers, aquariums, planetariums, zoos, botanical gardens and more.

Many afterschool programs already work closely with ASTC member organizations, creating opportunities for students to engage in hands-on activities at science centers and elsewhere. The new partnership is intended to significantly expand such collaboration, by introducing more afterschool programs to ASTC member organizations, and encouraging them to work together to serve youth in their communities. Under the partnership, the two national organizations will bring science and technology centers together with afterschool providers at a series of national conferences, webinars, and joint meetings, and will create and support an "ASTC Community of Practice" around afterschool that will allow for continued and ongoing dialogue between ASTC members and afterschool programs. ASTC will also continue as a partner for *Lights On Afterschool*, the Afterschool Alliance's nationwide celebration of afterschool programs that annually attracts 1 million Americans to 7,500 events across the country.

"Science centers and afterschool programs are natural partners with shared interests, methods and goals," said Jodi Grant, Executive Director of the Afterschool Alliance. "They both specialize in hands-on learning with a particular focus on STEM education. By helping to bring afterschool providers and science center leaders together to form local partnerships, we hope to

trigger a massive expansion of such collaborations across the country and expose many more students to hands-on, fun, educational STEM learning.”

“Proficiency in the STEM fields is crucial to the 21st century workforce,” said ASTC CEO Anthony (Bud) Rock. “Afterschool programs and science centers share the commitment to helping prepare today’s students for that reality, and are already providing lots of hands-on opportunities to draw children in, to teach them, and to spark and nurture their interest in the fields. This partnership is a perfect fit, and we’re thrilled by it!”

Already in the works under the new partnership is a half-day pre-conference session at ASTC’s 2013 Annual Conference, slated for October 19-22 in Albuquerque, NM, during which key players from the afterschool and science-center communities will meet for a substantive dialogue about the best ways to collaborate at the national and local levels. The two national organizations will continue to create opportunities for similar dialogues going forward. The organizations will also cross-promote each other’s work on the subject, using their various Internet and social-media platforms.

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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](http://www.afterschoolalliance.org).*

*The Association of Science-Technology Centers (ASTC) is a global organization providing collective voice and professional support for science centers, museums, and related institutions, whose innovative approaches to science learning inspire people of all ages about the wonders and the meaning of science in their lives. Through strategic alliances and global partnerships, ASTC strives to increase awareness of the valuable contributions its members make to their communities and the field of informal STEM learning. Founded in 1973, ASTC now represents over 600 members in nearly 50 countries, including not only science centers and museums, but also nature centers, aquariums, planetariums, zoos, botanical gardens, and natural history and children’s museums, as well as companies, consultants, and other organizations that share an interest in informal science education. For more information, or to find a science center, visit [www.astc.org](http://www.astc.org).*

#### *About CGI America*

*The Clinton Global Initiative (CGI), an initiative of the Clinton Foundation, convenes global leaders to create and implement innovative solutions to the world’s most pressing challenges. Established in June 2011 by President Bill Clinton, the Clinton Global Initiative America (CGI America) addresses economic recovery in the United States. CGI America brings together leaders in business, government, and civil society to generate and implement commitments to*

*create jobs, stimulate economic growth, foster innovation, and support workforce development in the United States. Since its first meeting, CGI America participants have made more than 200 commitments valued at \$13.4 billion when fully funded and implemented. To learn more, visit [cgiamerica.org](http://cgiamerica.org).*

*CGI also convenes an Annual Meeting, which brings together global leaders to take action and create positive social change, CGI University (CGI U), which brings together undergraduate and graduate students to address pressing challenges in their community or around the world, and, this year, CGI Latin America, which will bring together Latin American leaders to identify, harness, and strengthen ways to improve the livelihoods of people in Latin America and around the world. For more information, visit [clintonglobalinitiative.org](http://clintonglobalinitiative.org) and follow us on Twitter @ClintonGlobal and Facebook at [facebook.com/clintonglobalinitiative](https://facebook.com/clintonglobalinitiative).*