



Afterschool Alliance

Afterschool Ambassador Program: Legacy of Leadership

NEWS RELEASE
September 12, 2005

Contact: Lisa Lederer
202/371-1999

Afterschool Alliance Names 16 ‘Afterschool Ambassadors’ from 14 States

Local Leaders Will Work to Expand Afterschool Opportunities

Washington, DC – The Afterschool Alliance has selected 16 local leaders from 14 states to serve as Afterschool Ambassadors for the 2005-2006 school year. Each Ambassador directs, works for, or provides support to a local afterschool program, and will continue that work while also serving a one-year Ambassador term organizing public events, communicating with policy makers, and building support for afterschool programs. 2005-2006 Ambassadors are from Alabama, Colorado, Idaho, Mississippi, Nevada, New Mexico, New York, Ohio, Pennsylvania, Tennessee, Texas, Utah, Virginia and West Virginia.

“Afterschool programs keep kids safe, inspire them to learn, and help working parents,” said Afterschool Alliance Executive Director Jodi Grant. “The 2005-06 Afterschool Ambassadors are men and women with vast experience providing this vital service to their communities. Their task over the next year will be to share the good news about afterschool with parents, community and business leaders, policy makers, and the media. We are proud to have these accomplished afterschool leaders join our team.”

Each Ambassador will plan a major event for *Lights On Afterschool*, the Afterschool Alliance’s October 20 nationwide rally for afterschool. On that day, more than 7,000 programs are expected to rally support for afterschool. Despite overwhelming public support for afterschool programs, and an agreement embodied in the *No Child Left Behind Act* to steadily increase federal funding, federal support has been flat for several years. As a result, many states are unable to make new grants to afterschool programs this year. Congress has yet to adopt a final FY 2006 appropriation for the 21st Century Community Learning Centers afterschool initiative, but is on track for another year of flat funding.

The 2005-06 Ambassador class includes three returning Ambassadors from the 2004-05 class: Shaun Freeska of **Dayton, Ohio**; Alana Kulesa of **Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania**; and Kima Reed of **New York, New York**.

more

Add One

New 2005-06 Afterschool Ambassadors are:

- Kathi Bush, **Birmingham, Alabama;**
- Joyce G. Reid, **Colorado Springs, Colorado;**
- Janet Goodliffe, **Rexburg, Idaho;**
- Lorrie Davis, **Jackson, Mississippi;**
- Mildred J. Walker, **Las Vegas, Nevada;**
- Frances A. Lujan, **Albuquerque, New Mexico;**
- Lynn M. Siebert, **Menands, New York;**
- Jorge A. Perez, **Cincinnati, Ohio;**
- Angela King, **Woodbury, Tennessee;**
- Shannon Bishop, **Houston, Texas;**
- Carol Achziger, **Logan, Utah;**
- Karen Washington, **Newport News, Virginia;** and
- David McCutcheon, **Spencer, West Virginia.**

Afterschool programs offer young people safe, enriching, fun and engaging places to spend their afternoons. Youth in afterschool programs have been shown to perform better in school and have greater expectations for the future, while children who are unsupervised in the afternoons are at greater risk of becoming involved with crime, substance abuse and teenage pregnancy.

A groundbreaking study released in 2004 concluded that 14.3 million latchkey children have no adult supervision in the afternoons. *America After 3 PM: A Household Survey on Afterschool in America* was conducted for the Afterschool Alliance with funding from the J.C. Penney Company, Inc. It found that the parents of 15.3 million children say they would send their child to an afterschool program if one were available in their community. *America After 3 PM*, along with a follow-up study examining afterschool and working families, is available at www.afterschoolalliance.org.

The Afterschool Alliance is a nonprofit public awareness and advocacy organization supported by a group of public, private, and nonprofit entities working to ensure that all children and youth have access to afterschool programs by 2010. More information is available at www.afterschoolalliance.org.

#

[Click here to learn more about Afterschool Ambassadors.](#)