



**NEWS RELEASE**  
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**Metro Government of Nashville and Davidson County  
Councilmember-at-Large Honored as an  
Afterschool Champion in Nation's Capital**

*Parents, Educators, Students, Afterschool Leaders  
Urge Congress to Increase Afterschool Funding*

WASHINGTON, D.C. – The Afterschool Alliance today honored Metro Government of Nashville and Davidson County Councilmember-at-Large Ronnie Steine for his support of afterschool programs at the “Breakfast of Champions,” a gala event in Washington, D.C. that featured performances by lead guitarist Mark Bryan of Hootie and the Blowfish and afterschool youth. Councilmember Steine is well known throughout the Nashville metropolitan area and Davidson County as a powerful advocate for youth and a champion of the afterschool programs that help them succeed. Steine was one of just ten individuals from around the country honored at the “Breakfast” for supporting and working on behalf of the afterschool programs. The Mayor’s Office of Afterschool Initiatives in Nashville nominated him for the honor.

From 1995 to 2000 Councilmember Steine served as Executive Director of Oasis Center, a local nonprofit that helps troubled teens, providing them with opportunities to help others. He was also the driving force behind the creation of the Mayor’s Office of Children and Youth and the Mayor’s Youth Council. In 1999, as Vice Mayor, he instituted the Metro Council’s first task force on afterschool. Since his reelection to the Metro Council in 2007, Steine has worked closely with Mayor Karl Dean to keep youth issues at the forefront and to help Nashville take advantage of national best practices. In 2008, he was appointed to the National League of Cities Youth, Education, and Families Council.

In addition, Steine has worked tirelessly to build the newly-launched Nashville After Zone Alliance, which will evolve into a city-wide network of geographically-based zones, modeled after the Providence After School Alliance. The first zone has already more than doubled the number of public middle-school students participating in high-quality afterschool programming in that area. Steine has also been appointed by Mayor Dean to co-chair a Blue-Ribbon Task Force to create a Child and Youth Master Plan for Nashville. Out-of-School-Time has already emerged as one of the four key strategic areas of focus.

The “Breakfast of Champions” is part of the ninth annual *Afterschool for All Challenge*, sponsored by the Afterschool Alliance, which brings together hundreds of parents, educators, children, program directors and advocates from around the country for a series of events and meetings with Members of Congress. It is being held this year in conjunction with Be the

Change, the National AfterSchool Association's annual convention. At these events, afterschool advocates are urging Congress to safeguard federal funding for these programs and reject Administration proposals to cut funding by \$13 million in Fiscal Year 2011 and to allow non-afterschool programs to compete for federal afterschool dollars.

"This year, federal support for afterschool programs is in serious peril," said Afterschool Alliance Executive Director Jodi Grant. "The Obama Administration is proposing making non-afterschool programs eligible for the already limited federal dollars available through the 21<sup>st</sup> Century Community Learning Centers (21<sup>st</sup> CCLC) initiative, which is the principal federal funding stream for afterschool. It is more important than ever that advocates speak up and speak out to ensure that every child who needs afterschool has access to the programs that keep kids safe, inspire them to learn and help working families."

Other state champions honored at the *Afterschool for All Challenge* are: William Byars, State Director of the South Carolina Department of Juvenile Justice; David Davison, President and CEO of the American Savings Foundation in New Britain, Connecticut; Jerry Ellis, Mayor of Farmington Hills, Michigan; Wendell Maddox, President and CEO of the United Way of Wyandotte County, Kansas; Thierry Malley, State Director of the Pennsylvania Area Council of Boys & Girls Clubs; Chuck Oberlie, Mayor of Michigan City, Indiana; Rhode Island State Representative Edwin Pacheco; Renee Rider, Assistant Commissioner of the Division of Child Care Services, New York State Office of Children and Family Services; Carla Sanger, President and CEO of LA's BEST in Los Angeles, California.

The 2010 "Breakfast of Champions" is sponsored by: United States Tennis Association, Bright House Networks, Quaker Chewy, Torani, Sony Pictures Entertainment, Open Society Institute, Peavey Electronics, NAMM, The Annie E. Casey Foundation, D.C. Children & Youth Investment Trust Corporation and Cable in the Classroom.

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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).*