



NEWS RELEASE
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Montgomery County Executive 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 the Honorable Isiah Leggett, County Executive for Montgomery County in Maryland, for his support of afterschool programs at the “Breakfast of Champions,” a gala event in Washington, D.C. which featured U.S. Secretary of Education Arne Duncan and After School Matters Chair Maggie Daley. Leggett was one of just seven individuals from around the country honored for supporting and working on behalf of the afterschool programs that keep kids safe, inspire them to learn and help working families. The Montgomery County Collaboration Council for Children, Youth and Families nominated him for the honor.

Since he was elected County Executive in 2006, Leggett has made providing quality afterschool programs in Montgomery County a priority. His eight policy priorities include “Preparing Children to Live and Learn,” which includes developing and supporting a system of before- and after-school programming for youth. Before- and after- school programs are also an important component of the Leggett administration’s Positive Youth Development Initiative.

For fiscal year 2008, he allocated \$100,000 to create a local out-of-school time system. A partnership led by high ranking public officials, private organizations and other community stakeholders help to drive this effort, which includes increasing community awareness of and political will for programming, setting quality standards, supporting youth worker professional development, researching the need for out-of-school programming and provider capacity and evaluating the effectiveness of existing programs.

The “Breakfast of Champions” is part of the eighth 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. At the *Challenge*, the Afterschool Alliance released its *Roadmap to Afterschool for All*, which includes a series of recommendations to make afterschool programs available to all students.

“At this time of tremendous economic stress, America needs many more quality afterschool programs so that our kids are safe and supervised after the school day ends,” said Afterschool Alliance Executive Director Jodi Grant. “The *No Child Left Behind Act* authorized slow, steady

increases for the 21st Century Community Learning Centers (21st CCLC) initiative, which is the principal federal funding stream for afterschool, but right now we are far below the \$2.5 billion authorized for this year. Our *Roadmap* demonstrates just how far we are from making sure every child who needs afterschool has access to it. Reaching that goal will require increased contributions from all levels of government and the business and charitable communities. We are looking to the federal government to lead the way.” The *Roadmap* is available at www.afterschoolalliance.org.

Other state champions honored at the *Afterschool for All Challenge* are: THINK Together afterschool program Founder and CEO Randy Barth of Santa Ana, California; Dr. Ella Brunner, Associate Professor at Jefferson Community and Technical College in Louisville, Kentucky; Michigan State Senator Bill Hardiman; Ohio State Representative Tracy Maxwell Heard; New York State Deputy Secretary for Education Duffy Palmer; and Jeanette Scott, Principal of Eagle Ridge Elementary in Milledgeville, Georgia.

The “Breakfast of Champions” was sponsored by Abbott, United States Tennis Association, Bright House Networks, Marriott, Inc., Open Society Institute, NAMM, National Association of Chain Drug Stores, Cable in the Classroom, National Afterschool Association, National League of Cities, and Foundations, Inc.

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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.