



NEWS RELEASE  
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CONTACT: Lisa Lederer  
202/371-1999

## **Samelson Resigns, An Era Ends**

### **Alliance Will Launch National Search for New Executive Director**

WASHINGTON, DC – The Board of Directors of the Afterschool Alliance today accepted the resignation of its founding Executive Director, Judy Y. Samelson, with high praise for her contribution to the organization and the field. The Board will begin a national search for a new Executive Director in the new year. It named the Alliance’s Associate Director, Jen Rinehart, to serve as its Acting Executive Director until a new leader is named.

“We all wish Judy the very best in her future endeavors,” said Alliance Board Chairman Terry Peterson, former Counselor to a U.S. Secretary of Education. “Judy’s tireless work and tremendous dedication have made the Afterschool Alliance the powerful voice for children and families that it is today. While we will all miss Judy, we know this is a strong organization with talented staff, dedicated board members, and funders that are deeply committed this issue. The Afterschool Alliance’s multi-faceted advocacy work will continue until it completes its mission to make afterschool programs available to all children and families that need them. There is still a lot of work to do to meet that goal.”

“This is a bittersweet moment for me,” Samelson said. “I will miss this wonderful organization, but I also know that I leave it in enormously capable hands. And I take great satisfaction in knowing that I achieved my goal to establish a strong organization that will continue raising the profile of afterschool with lawmakers and the public.”

The Alliance’s signature event, *Lights On Afterschool*, was celebrated at more than 7,000 events in every corner of the nation and at military bases around the world in October. Planning is now underway for the *Afterschool for All Challenge* – the fourth such event – to be held May 18 in Washington, D.C. Right now the Alliance is activating its vast grassroots network to encourage President Bush to increase funding for the 21<sup>st</sup> Century Community Learning Centers (21<sup>st</sup> CCLC) afterschool initiative, which has been flat-funded for four years despite increases authorized by the No Child Left Behind Act.

*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 the year 2010. More information is available at [www.afterschoolalliance.org](http://www.afterschoolalliance.org).*

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