



NEWS RELEASE
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For Immediate Release

Afterschool Alliance Joins Groundbreaking STEM Summit

Washington, DC. America needs a workforce skilled in science, technology, engineering and math (STEM), and a notable group of companies and organizations is uniting to ensure that the nation gets the message. This summer, thousands of education, policy and industry thought leaders will convene in Dallas, Texas for STEM Solutions 2012, a groundbreaking leadership summit that will bring the best minds and best practices together on a national stage to open the conversation and develop solutions to the STEM skills shortage.

Among the STEM stakeholders who have signed on to get behind the Summit is the Afterschool Alliance. As one of the conference's Co-chairs, the Afterschool Alliance will provide topical input, expertise and support throughout the planning stages, as well as during the conference.

The organizers of STEM Solutions 2012 identified the Afterschool Alliance as a change maker involved in shaping the economy's future. The organization has been working intensively with afterschool, before school and summer programs around the country to encourage and support STEM programming and to help implement that programming in ways that will encourage youth of all ages to seek out STEM activities and consider careers in STEM-related fields. Furthermore, the organization builds bridges between those in public policy, business and the sciences and those working in the out-of-school-

time field to raise awareness about the educational, hands-on learning opportunities that afterschool, before school and summer programs offer to students.



According to **Anita Krishnamurthi, PhD**, Director of STEM Policy, the Afterschool Alliance, “Our organization is participating in STEM Solutions because it offers a wonderful opportunity to connect with some of the leading minds working to advance STEM education in this country. We consider this a stellar opportunity to bring messages about the importance of STEM in afterschool to public policy, science, business, community and other leaders and practitioners. We want to invite those in related fields to learn more about the opportunities for STEM education in afterschool programs, to invite them to participate in our local *Lights On Afterschool* events this fall, and to engage with our community in other ways.”

Event organizers, *U.S. News & World Report*, Innovate+Educate and STEMConnector™ have enthusiastically welcomed the group’s involvement. “STEMconnector is so proud that the Afterschool Alliance is committing its strong voice and resources towards addressing one of the most pressing issues facing America’s economic future. We respect and admire the Afterschool Alliance’s work and look forward to their critical contributions to the STEM Solutions Conference in Dallas,” said Edie Fraser, CEO of STEMConnector.

To learn more about how you can help shape our nation’s future by participating in STEM Solutions 2012, visit www.USNewsSTEMSolutions.com. To learn more about the Afterschool Alliance’s STEM work, please visit www.afterschoolalliance.org/STEM. The Afterschool Alliance has negotiated a special program rate for its network of contacts who register using code ASA002.

U.S. News STEM Solutions 2012—A Leadership Summit is a mission-critical event focused on the shortage of science- and tech-related skills in the American workforce. U.S. News & World Report, together with Innovate+Educate, STEMConnector™ and more than 40 key organizations will bring together for the first time on a national stage major corporations, leading educators, top policy makers and education technology companies to create a collective that will fill jobs now and advance the future STEM workforce. Held June 27 – 29, 2012 at the Sheraton Dallas Hotel in Dallas, Texas.

U.S. News & World Report is a print and digital publisher of news and information in the areas of politics, policy, education, health care, personal finance and other topics of consumer interest.

Innovate+Educate is a national non-profit led by Fortune 500 companies with a goal of aligning STEM education and workforce efforts on a state-by-state basis.

STEMConnector™ is a resource center and network that helps bring together the many STEM projects around the country with a website of more than 3,000 organizations dedicated to STEM education; jobs and diversity are key priorities.

Afterschool Alliance: 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.

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