



MEDIA ADVISORY
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202/371-1999

Senate Afterschool Caucus Highlights Contributions of Quality Rural Afterschool and Summer Learning Programs

Briefing Will Explore Strategies for Student Engagement, Community Development and Family Support

Afterschool programs in rural communities help children in places where prospects and resources can be limited. In many rural areas, afterschool programs are the only source of supplemental enrichment in literacy, nutrition education, technology, and preparation for college. Afterschool programs offer effective and affordable ways to overcome obstacles confronting rural communities and help students realize their full potential.

At a congressional briefing, a panel of education experts leading strong school-community partnerships in Iowa, West Virginia and Minnesota will discuss how afterschool programs in rural communities foster student and family engagement and community development. The briefing, which will highlight how the federal 21st Century Community Learning Centers (21st CCLC) initiative supports quality afterschool and summer learning programs in rural communities, will be held:

Thursday, July 11
U.S. Capitol Visitors Center SVC 212-10
10:30 a.m. – 11:30 a.m.

WITH

Sandy Klaus, Principal, Starmont Elementary School, Arlington, Iowa

Dr. Jennifer A. Skuza, Assistant Dean, Center for Youth Development, Univ. of Minnesota Extension
Minneapolis, Minnesota

Dr. Dorothy McCargo Freeman, Associate Dean, Director, Minnesota 4-H, Univ. of Minnesota
Extension, Minneapolis, Minnesota

Shelby Dettinger, Grant Programs Officer, World Vision Appalachia, Philippi, West Virginia

Quality afterschool programs, which keep kids safe, help working families and inspire learning, do a tremendous amount to help young people in rural communities develop the skills needed for the 21st century workplace.

Afterschool Alliance Executive Director Jodi Grant will moderate the briefing, which is sponsored by the Senate Afterschool Caucus.

NOTE: Media without press credentials for the Capitol will need to RSVP to Luci Manning at 202/371-1999.

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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.