



NEWS RELEASE
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Kansas Education Leader Honored as an Afterschool Champion in Nation's Capital

*Parents, Educators, Students, Afterschool Leaders
Urge Congress to Increase Afterschool Funding, Help Expand Science, Technology,
Engineering and Math Programming*

WASHINGTON, D.C. – The Afterschool Alliance today honored Nancy Volpe, a youth program consultant for CVS Caremark, for her support for afterschool programs at the “Breakfast of Champions,” a gala event in Washington, D.C. featuring FIRST Robotics founder Dean Kamen. Volpe has supported afterschool programs in Kansas in several capacities, including expanding CVS Caremark’s Pathways to Pharmacy program in the state and serving on the Kansas Science, Technology, Engineering and Math (STEM) Leadership Team which works to increase students’ exposure to and education in these fields. She was one of just nine state champions from around the country honored at the Breakfast for supporting and working on behalf of afterschool programs. The Kansas Enrichment Network nominated her for the honor.

Volpe assists businesses, foundations, non-profits and youth-serving organizations in developing programs and collaborative efforts to meet the needs of children and youth. Pathways to Pharmacy promotes careers in pharmacy for middle and high school students through internships, mentoring and work-based learning experiences. As a member of the National Drop Out Prevention Center, Volpe presents workshops at national conferences that showcase how businesses can work with schools and the education community to provide middle and high school students with real-world experiences that improve their understanding of and excitement about the sciences and math.

“Nancy has dedicated herself to bringing businesses and educators together to enhance science, technology, engineering and math education for middle and high school students,” said Marcia Dvorak, Program Director of the Kansas Enrichment Network. “By encouraging and leading efforts to create such partnerships, she has helped our state make great strides in increasing students’ interest studying and pursuing careers in these important and growing fields.

The “Breakfast of Champions” is part of the tenth 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. Following the Breakfast, participants fanned out across Capitol Hill to meet with Members of Congress and talk to them about the importance of

afterschool programs and expanding opportunities for kids to engage in STEM activities in those programs. This year is The Year of Science in Afterschool.

“Afterschool programs are a lifeline for working families, they keep kids safe and – most important – inspire them to learn. These programs are uniquely positioned to provide hands-on and real-world STEM learning opportunities,” said Afterschool Alliance Executive Director Jodi Grant. “It’s no secret that our nation has some serious catching-up to do when it comes to math and the sciences. We know that afterschool programs are successful in getting children excited about the sciences. That excitement and interest has been shown to be a better predictor than good grades or test scores of who will pursue careers in the sciences. By offering children the opportunity to try robotics, CSI, rocket-building or constructing wind turbines, afterschool programs are developing future computer programmers, forensic scientists and engineers.”

Other state champions honored at the *Afterschool for All Challenge* are: Agnes Quiñones, Education Consultant, Connecticut State Department of Education; Kathleen Straus, Board Member, Michigan State Board of Education; R.T. Rybak, Mayor of the City of Minneapolis, Minnesota; Sherry Comer, Afterschool Services Director, Camden R-III Schools, Camden, Missouri; Vaughn L. McKoy, President, PSEG Foundation, New Jersey; Kyle Stewart, Executive Director, Alliance of New York State YMCAs, Inc.; Carmen M. Medina, Chief of the Division, Pennsylvania Department of Education Bureau of Teaching and Learning, Division of Student Services; Mark H. Emery, Administrator for After-School Programs, Fairfax County Public Schools, Virginia.

The 2011 Afterschool for All Challenge is sponsored by: United States Tennis Association, Peavey Electronics, NAMM, Open Society Foundations, Cable in the Classroom, National AfterSchool Association, Clever Crazes for Kids, and Arnold and Sandra Grant. Additional funding is provided by the S.D. Bechtel, Jr. Foundation, Time Warner Cable, the Noyce Foundation and jcpenny.

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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.