



NEWS RELEASE
May 17, 2011

CONTACT: Gretchen Wright
202/371-1999

New Jersey Foundation 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 Vaughn L. McKoy, President of the PSEG Foundation, the philanthropic arm of New Jersey-based energy company PSEG. The PSEG Foundation works to make New Jersey a better place to live and work, by investing in education, the environment and community and economic development. McKoy is being honored at the “Breakfast of Champions,” a gala event in Washington, D.C. featuring FIRST® founder Dean Kamen for PSEG’s support for afterschool programs.

The PSEG Foundation is a strong supporter of afterschool programs throughout New Jersey, and helped fund the creation of the New Jersey Afterschool Directory. McKoy was one of just nine state champions from around the country honored at the Breakfast. The New Jersey School-Age Care Coalition, which is the statewide afterschool network in New Jersey, nominated him for the honor.

As President of the PSEG Foundation, McKoy is responsible for developing and implementing policy, strategy, and social investment initiatives. In addition to support for individual afterschool programs, PSEG Foundation partners with United Way to support student success in afterschool programs through the PSEG/United Way After School Collaborative. The Foundation also cohosts with Citizen Schools of New Jersey a STEM Alliance Roundtable, a collaboration between leaders from nonprofit organizations, foundations and educational institutions working to engage youth in science, technology, engineering and math (STEM) learning.

“The PSEG Foundation has been an important partner, championing afterschool programs in New Jersey,” said Diane Genco, Executive Director of the New Jersey School-Age Care Coalition. “Under Vaughn McKoy’s direction, PSEG has created and expanded opportunities for youth to get excited about science and math - helping us bridge the achievement gap between the U.S. and other nations and prepare a future generation of scientists, engineers, physicists.”

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

Other state champions honored at the *Afterschool for All Challenge* are: Agnes Quiñones, Education Consultant, Connecticut State Department of Education; Nancy Volpe, Consultant-Youth Programs/America’s Promise, CVS Consultant, Pathways to Pharmacy and President, Volpe Communications in Kansas; Kathleen Straus, Board Member, Michigan State Board of Education; R.T. Rybak, Mayor of the City of Minneapolis, Minnesota; Sherry Comer, Afterschool Services Director, Camdenton R-III Schools, Camdenton, Missouri; 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, 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.