



**NEWS RELEASE**  
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## **Coach of Championship Afterschool Chess Team Honored in Nation's Capital for Dedication to Kids, Education and Afterschool Programs**

*Educators, Parents, Afterschool Leaders Come Together to Urge Congress to Increase Funding for Afterschool Programs at 12<sup>th</sup> Annual Afterschool for All Challenge*

WASHINGTON, D.C. – At a national event on Capitol Hill, the Afterschool Alliance today presented its 2013 national Afterschool for All Champion award to John Galvin, assistant principal and coach of the championship chess team at I.S. 318, a middle school in Brooklyn. Galvin was recognized for his dedication to his students and the chess program, which has helped build a culture of success at the school. The team and their journey to become chess champions are the subject of an award-winning documentary film, “Brooklyn Castle,” now available on video-on-demand.

The award was presented at the “Breakfast of Champions,” a gala event in Washington, D.C. featuring Members of Congress and 18 State Afterschool Champions. Galvin mounted a community-wide campaign to fight budget cuts that threatened the chess program. I.S. 318 is in a high-poverty area and many of its students and chess players are from low-income families.

“The story of John Galvin and the I.S. 318 chess team is inspirational and a true testament to the power of afterschool,” said Afterschool Alliance Executive Director Jodi Grant. “You can’t watch Brooklyn Castle without being deeply touched and you can’t meet John without being truly amazed by his commitment to students and their academic success. Every day, across this country, afterschool champions are standing up for kids, inspiring them to succeed and encouraging them to dream big. We honor 19 of those champions today. And we urge Congress to continue to fund the programs that keep kids safe, inspire them to learn, and help working parents.”

The “Breakfast of Champions” is part of the 12<sup>th</sup> annual *Afterschool for All Challenge*, sponsored by the Afterschool Alliance, which brings together hundreds of educators, parents, afterschool leaders and advocates from around the country for a series of events and meetings with Members of Congress. Senator Barbara Boxer (CA) and Senator Lisa Murkowski (AK) were among the Members of Congress honored for supporting afterschool programs and spoke at the event.

Following the Breakfast, more than 200 participants fanned out across Capitol Hill to talk to their senators and representatives about the importance of afterschool programs to children, families

and communities. This year, the Alliance is also encouraging advocates for afterschool to participate in the *Challenge* at home by calling or visiting congressional district offices to urge their representatives in Congress to increase funding for the 21<sup>st</sup> Century Community Learning Center (21<sup>st</sup> CCLC), the chief federal funding stream for afterschool and summer programs.

“There’s no question that afterschool programs are a lifeline for working parents, give our children and youth a safe place to be, and inspire academic and social/emotional learning,” added Grant. “But they also do much more. They expose kids to careers in the sciences and the arts, teach them the value of community service, and provide them with mentors, meals, physical activity and so much more. The people we honor as champions today are helping to educate, support and guide the young people who will be our leaders tomorrow.”

The State Champions being honored at the *Afterschool for All Challenge* are:

- Arkansas: Tammie Cloyes, 21<sup>st</sup> CCLC Program Coordinator, Department of Education
- California: Michael Funk, Director of the After School Division, Department of Education
- Florida: Modesto Abety-Gutierrez, President and CEO, The Children’s Trust
- Georgia: N. Jean Walker Ph.D., Vice President of Education, United Way of Greater Atlanta
- Iowa: Dave Welter, Principal, Holmes Junior High School
- Indiana: Willis Bright, Former Director of Youth Programs, Lilly Endowment
- Kansas: Laura Kaiser, Family Engagement Chair, Kansas Parent Teacher Association
- Massachusetts: The Honorable Thomas McGee, Massachusetts State Senate
- North Carolina: Carr Thompson, Senior Program Officer, Burroughs Wellcome Fund
- Nebraska: Kristin Williams, Director of Community Initiatives, The Sherwood Foundation
- New Jersey: The Honorable Connie Wagner, New Jersey General Assembly
- New Mexico: Laurie Mueller, Former 21<sup>st</sup> CCLC State Coordinator, Department of Education
- Oklahoma: General Ben Robinson USAF (Ret.), President, Sentry One LLC
- Pennsylvania: Leslie Roesler, Associate Director, Pennsylvania Key – Berks County Intermediate Unit
- Rhode Island: The Honorable Frank Ferri, Rhode Island House of Representatives
- Texas: Jennifer Esterline, Independent Nonprofit Consultant
- Virginia: Kathryn Johnson, Executive Director, Alternatives, Inc.
- West Virginia: Gayle Manchin, Vice President, State Board of Education.

The 2013 *Afterschool for All Challenge* is generously sponsored by: United States Tennis Association, United States Chess Federation, the NAMM Foundation, Cable in the Classroom and the National AfterSchool Association. Additional generous support is provided by Torani Syrups, the Noyce Foundation and the C.S. Mott Foundation.

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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](http://www.afterschoolalliance.org).*