

Kansas Enrichment Network Newsletter

April 2009



Dear Afterschool Advocate,

It's an exciting time in the world of afterschool. Recognition of its importance and the need for quality programs frequently finds its place in the news. Want the latest *update* or to *take action*? Check the link to the policy work of the [Afterschool Alliance](#).

In what the Afterschool Alliance calls *unprecedented*, **U. S. Secretary of Education Arne Duncan** will speak at the *Afterschool for All Challenge* "Breakfast of Champions" in Washington later this month. Secretary Duncan has long been a fan of afterschool, and I look forward to hearing his remarks. I am pleased to note that there will be at least eight of us representing Kansas on the Hill. The congressional visits will be exciting. "This is an important moment for afterschool. While the grim economic situation poses huge challenges for programs and the families we serve, we also are poised to see the benefits from a decade of intensive work. Policy makers and the public increasingly recognize that afterschool programs are vitally important to families, communities and our nation - now and for our future," writes Jodi Grant of the Alliance. For access to the entire article, [click here](#). Thank you -- Afterschool Alliance -- for all you do to help move afterschool forward.

How is the current economic downturn affecting your programs?

The Afterschool Alliance would like to hear your stories. Please look below for an opportunity to respond to a survey addressing that issue. We encourage you to help build the Kansas story by submitting your responses.

Finally, let us know if there is something we can do to help promote quality extended learning opportunities in your area or share stories of your successes. We welcome your calls and emails.

Marcia Dvorak
Director

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Afterschool Alliance Seeks Input

The Afterschool Alliance is conducting a survey to determine how afterschool may be changing as unemployment rises, costs increase, and state and local governments face shortfalls.

Afterschool Alliance is engaged in researching the many ways the economic

Summer Youth Jobs Available



The Workforce Partnership in Johnson, Leavenworth and Wyandotte Counties has summer job opportunities for youth aged 14-24.

These paid internships provide career exploration, job search and interview tips and hands-on experience. The program runs from June through July. Participants must meet income and residency requirements.

Workforce Partnership is the local Workforce Investment Act Youth Provider serving youth in Wyandotte, Johnson, and Leavenworth counties. Success is based on preparing youth for employment, improving educational achievements, and the support services to get there.

Visit their [website](#) for more information.

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downturn is affecting afterschool programs. They want to know: What are the trends in enrollment, funding, and capacity right now? Have funding sources changed in the last several years and if so, how is that affecting students and families?

Act now as time is short. Please complete this [survey](#) by the close of business Wednesday, April 29. Following data collection, the Alliance will help create the Kansas story.

Call for Promising Practices



The AED Center for Youth Development in Washington, D.C. announced the Spring 2009 call for promising practices in afterschool.

This round of best practice submissions for promising practices focuses on The Afterschool Link to Learning. The latest trend in afterschool is to extend the school day with informal learning that ultimately also supports success in school. Do you have innovative practices that integrate both in- and out-of- school learning?

If your program embeds promising practices that, for example: 1) help youth strengthen learning by offering experiences to build skills that support school success; 2) offer techniques for teaching the practical use of math and science in afterschool; and 3) use art and drama to better acquire rich vocabulary--AED would like the opportunity to recognize your work through this promising practices submission process.

AED is especially interested in practical, hands-on activities that result in skill-building. The link between afterschool and learning runs the whole range from informal skill development and hands-on activities, such as food preparation that also teaches math and reading skills to neighborhood and community service projects that are highly experiential and give youth the opportunity to demonstrate skills that they are learning in the afterschool hours.

For more information, please [visit their website](#). Submissions are due by April 30, 2009.

Resources

[Participate in the Afterschool for All Challenge from Home](#)

The 8th annual Afterschool for All Challenge is April 27 and 28 in Washington, D.C. For those who cannot come, there are creative and inexpensive ways to participate in the Afterschool for All Challenge from home. They include creating a video and thanking their members of Congress for past support and encouraging them to increase funding in the future.

[K-State Research and Extension Office Offers Programs in Wyandotte](#)

The K-State Research and Extension Office in Wyandotte County provides a balanced mix of programs in the area of agriculture, family and consumer sciences, 4-H youth development and community and economic development. The Wyandotte County Extension Office stresses the importance of enriching the lives of our citizens by providing free or low cost opportunities to engage in lifelong learning. Our staff members are trained to provide educational programs to all members of the community.

[Guidelines for Fostering Inclusion Through Afterschool Math](#)

These unique guidelines are based on the lessons learned from Afterschool Inclusive Math (AIM), a program that provides youth with and without disabilities the opportunity to work together on real-world, inquiry-based math. Developed by the Educational Equity Center at AED, AIM is based on After-School Math PLUS, an engaging curriculum that helps students find the math in everyday experiences. After-School Math PLUS creates unique partnerships between afterschool centers and science/technology museums. AIM brings this distinctive, standards-based program to inclusive afterschool settings.

[Supporting Student Outcomes Through Expanded Learning Opportunities](#)

This new paper looks at the role of after school and summer learning programs in supporting student success. Inside this paper, you will learn about the benefits of expanded learning, why and how schools should partner, and a warrant for future research on expanded learning and education reform.

[AYPF Announces New Publication](#)

Learning Around the Clock: Benefits of Expanded Learning Opportunities for Older Youth, is a publication that profiles 22 programs that provide quality expanded learning opportunities (ELOs) for older youth.

[Keeping Kids in School](#)

The America's Promise Alliance has released its updated edition of Grad Nation, a comprehensive guidebook with supporting tools on the best evidence-based practices on keeping students in school, graduating and prepared for college.

[Service-Learning Module Offers Framework for Project Addressing Childhood Obesity](#)

YSA and UnitedHealth Group have a free, online guide, developed in collaboration with UnitedHealthcare, that is an excellent resource for educators, service-learning coordinators, and students of medicine to develop effective obesity-related service-learning projects that allow children and youth to plan and implement service or advocacy projects that link to school curricula and education standards.

Funding Opportunities

[Great American Bake Sale Grants](#)

Share Our Strength's Great American Bake Sale grants program helps ensure that low-income children receive nutritious food during critical times when they are out of school and particularly vulnerable to hunger.

[Target Arts Grants](#)

Target funds arts programs that bring the arts to schools or make it affordable for youth and families to participate in cultural experiences, such as school touring programs, field trips to the theater or symphony, or artists residencies and workshops in schools.

[Target Early Childhood Reading Grants](#)

Reading grants are awarded to schools, libraries and nonprofit organizations, supporting programs such as weekend book clubs and after-school reading programs that foster a love of reading and encourage children, from birth through age 9, to read together with their families.

[Build-A-Bear Workshop Giving Programs](#)

The Build-A-Bear Workshop Bear Hugs Foundation supports charities for children in the United States and Canada in the areas of health and wellness and literacy and education. In addition, organizations seeking unrestricted

support for children, families, and animals or for wild animals and the environment are encouraged to apply for grants.

[Kansas Arts Commission Grants](#)

The Kansas Arts Commission announced that it will receive funds from the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act of 2009 (ARRA), through the National Endowment for the Arts. Grants for Kansas Arts Jobs will be available April 21, 2009.

[How to Get Stimulus Money](#)

Youth Today has posted the latest information about how organizations can apply for the various streams of funds through the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act. This posting will be updated as more information becomes available.

[What Kids Can Do Speech Contest](#)

As Graduation Day approaches, WKCD invites students across the country-- age 12 to 19--to raise their voice and let others know what matters most to them, in this moment and in the years ahead. There will be five winners (\$100 gift certificate from Amazon.com).

We hope you enjoyed our newsletter. We welcome your comments. If you know of someone who would like to receive the newsletter, please have them contact us or click on the "Join our mailing list" above. Happy Spring!

Sincerely,

Marcia Dvorak, Project Coordinator

Kathy Bryant, Program Assistant
[Kansas Enrichment Network](#)

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