



## Kansas Enrichment Network Newsletter

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### New youth photo competition

Adobe Youth Voices (AYV), a global youth media initiative, and the nonprofit What Kids Can Do, Inc. are sponsoring a first-ever international photo competition.

Youth around the world will have the opportunity to express themselves through photographs that explore both what is challenging and what gives hope in today's difficult world.

Winning photographs will be showcased online, in a traveling exhibit and in a book.

The contest is open to all young people between the ages of 12 and 19.

The deadline for submissions is July 31, 2009. Winners will be announced by August 31, 2009. [Click here](#) for more information.

May 2009

Dear Afterschool Friends,

### Afterschool is making the news!

The National League of Cities' Institute for Youth, Education, and Families suggests The American Recovery and Reinvestment Act of 2009 provides an opportunity to expand and strengthen both afterschool and summer programs for children and youth. This can meet the ever-increasing demand for high-quality programs, addressing the estimated 14.3 million youth who go home to an empty, unsupervised setting. We know quality afterschool opportunities provide a safe, supervised environment as well as constructive, engaging activities. To view the full brief and a listing of relevant ARRA Funding Streams, check out the report on our [website](#).

Bringing additional focus to afterschool, representatives from the Department of Education spoke about Secretary Arne Duncan's listening and learning tour. Duncan also talked about aggressively driving reform through changes to the Title I program, extending the school day, better afterschool programs and partnerships with the community.

First Lady Michelle Obama visited an afterschool program, and according to the press office, "the visit was intended to highlight the importance of after-school programs, particularly those for lower-income children."

Our [website](#) provides links to both Secretary Duncan's blog and the report on the First Lady's visit.

Do you have any news on afterschool programs in your community? How is the economic downturn affecting your programming? Can the Network be of assistance? We look forward to hearing from you.

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## NEWS



### [National event inspires afterschool advocates](#)

Seventeen Kansans, including three youth, recently traveled to Washington, D.C., to meet with congressional members to share success stories and offer support for afterschool programs in the state.

Afterschool advocates from Iola, Arkansas City, Abilene and Ottawa and staff members from Kansas Action for Children and Kansas Enrichment Network joined in sharing the importance of quality extended learning opportunities for youth.

The eighth annual Afterschool for All Challenge, organized by the Afterschool Alliance, gave people the chance to meet with state and national lawmakers to show their commitment to afterschool programs that keep kids safe, inspire them to learn and help working families. To read the full story, visit the Network's website.

### [Speak Up 2008 selected national findings](#)



Since 2003, the Speak Up National Research Project has collected and shared the ideas and views of more than 1.5 million K-12 students, teachers, parents and administrators on education and technology. Speak Up 2008 found that only 17 percent of middle school students and 21 percent of high school students say they are very interested in pursuing a career in a STEM field. However, an additional cohort of middle and

high school students say they might be interested in a STEM career if they knew more about it.

#### [Benefits of expanded learning opportunities for older youth](#)

In its review of 22 high-quality after-school programs, the American Youth Policy Forum finds that strong out-of-school time learning opportunities can improve academic performance, college and career prep, social and emotional development and health and wellness.

#### [Child nutrition programs up for reauthorization](#)

Congress will focus on the upcoming reauthorization of the child nutrition programs and has the opportunity to improve access, meal quality and nutrition for millions of children, particularly low-income children in child care (the Child and Adult Care Food Program - CACFP), in school (breakfast and lunch programs), during out-of-school time (afterschool, on weekends and during the summer), and at home (the WIC Program).



## RESEARCH

#### [Childhood poverty can impair memory in youth](#)

Rockefeller University researchers have found that poverty and chronic stress during childhood is adversely associated with working memory in young adults.

#### [Links between family strengths and adolescent outcomes](#)



Child Trends finds that while poverty has consequences for children, good parenting and family strengths - caring parents, parental supervision and positive role modeling - make a difference for adolescent outcomes.

#### [Afterschool Alliance's Roadmap to Afterschool for All](#)

The Afterschool Alliance initiated the Roadmap to Afterschool for All - a scientific study that for the first time assesses the current investment in afterschool programs from the public sector, parents, foundations and businesses, and estimates the additional investment needed from each sector to provide quality afterschool programs for all children.

## RESOURCES

#### [Journal seeks articles](#)

The Afterschool Matters Journal currently is seeking article for the Spring 2010 issue. The Journal is produced at the National Institute on Out-of-School Time at Wellesley College.

#### [Online training for summer program staff](#)

On Wednesday, May 20, the National Center for Summer Learning at Johns Hopkins University will offer online training to help summer program staff get ready for summer. The cost is \$99 per computer.

#### [Enhancing activity & nutrition: Resources for communities](#)

We Can! is a national education program designed for parents and caregivers to help children 8-13 years old stay at a healthy weight. We Can! offers parents and families tips and fun activities to encourage healthy eating, increase physical activity and reduce sedentary or screen time. It also offers community groups and health professionals resources to implement programs and fun activities for parents and youth in communities around the country.

#### [Afterschool grows up: Helping teens prepare for the future](#)

This commentary describes two very different school-based models in California and summarizes lessons from recent evaluations of After School Matters in Chicago and the OST Initiative in New York City. In addition, it discusses an ambitious high school redesign effort in New Hampshire that is building upon successful high school after-school programs.

#### [Great Science for Girls webinar](#)

The Educational Equity Center (EEC) and Center for Youth Development and Policy Research (CYDPR) at AED hosted a Science, Gender and Afterschool webcast. Great Science for Girls highlights four unique curricula that have proven to impact girls' interest and engagement in science learning. Over 100 national and international visitors participated in this session. The webinar is now available online.

#### [Bibliography on out-of-school time resources available](#)

The Harvard Family Research Project has created a bibliography of out-of-school time program evaluations and research studies.

#### [Planned reflection time in afterschool](#)

Afterschool programs are increasingly considered partners in supporting youth academic achievement by providing enriching school-related learning opportunities during the out-of-school time hours. In fact, many afterschool programs offer directed homework support, tutoring, science and math-based exploratory activities and standardized test prep. Another pedagogical strategy which supports learning and is naturally suited to youth development and afterschool programs is planned reflection time. In the field of service-learning, planned reflection time is widely used to promote personal development and learning. Through oral and written reflection, participants give attention to the types of personal changes taking place through the activities and linking actions and effects.

## FUNDING OPPORTUNITIES

[Youth Service America grants](#)

Grants and awards support and motivate youth, teachers, service-learning coordinators, and youth-serving organizations to plan and implement projects for Global Youth Service Day and on-going service throughout the year.

[State Farm grants support teen driver safety](#)

Sponsored by State Farm® and coordinated by the National Youth Leadership Council® (NYLC), Project Ignition is a grant program that uses service-learning to help address teen driver safety issues. These grants support students in grades 9 through 12 and their teachers or advisors to work together to develop a campaign to address the issue of teen driver safety in your community.

[Visit the Network's website for more grant opportunities](#)

Best wishes for a happy spring. We look forward to hearing from you about your successes or ways in which the Network might be able to assist your efforts.

Sincerely,  
Marcia

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Kansas Enrichment Network

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