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## Take Ten!

Welcome to *Take Ten!* - A monthly bulletin designed to keep you informed. We invite you to take 10 minutes a month to update yourself with what's going on in the network and the afterschool/youth development field.

**May 2008**

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## THE SPOTLIGHT!

**A Time for Action** – Jobs for the Future, a nonprofit research and advocacy organization released a report last week urging state policymakers to take action and address the dropout challenge. The report, *Raising Graduation Rates in an Era of High Standards: Five Commitments for State Action*, suggests that states focus on issues such as high school diploma that signifies college and work-readiness; turnaround of low-performing high schools; and early and continuous support for struggling students, particularly those from low-income families. The report indicates that while 1 out of 2 students from middle and upper-class families can be expected to earn a college degree, only 1 in 10 students from low socioeconomic group will do so. To read this report, <http://www.jff.org/Documents/raisinggradrates.pdf>. For more information about Jobs for the Future, visit [www.jff.org](http://www.jff.org).

## PSAYDN UPDATE

Stay informed – Here's what's going on.

- **Greene County Afterschool Summit** – PSAYDN's Greene County Afterschool Summit, *A Continuum of Learning: PA Supports the Power of Afterschool*, is one of many Afterschool Summits sponsored by the Network to promote afterschool and youth development programs. This county-wide meeting in Greene County will be held on June 26, 2008 at Waynesburg University from 9 am to 1 pm to highlight the state of youth in the county, address the needs of the community and facilitate discussions to support afterschool planning for children and youth. For more information about the event or to register, please <http://www.psaydn.org/Greene.php>.
- **Afterschool for All Challenge** – In mid-May, over 500 afterschool supporters celebrated the 7<sup>th</sup> Annual Afterschool for All Challenge in Washington, DC. From parents and youth to advocates and providers, supporters of all roles came together to voice one common idea: afterschool matters. PSAYDN, along with 17 representatives from Harrisburg, Mifflin County, Philadelphia, Pittsburgh, State College and York

met with Pennsylvania federal lawmakers to discuss the importance of afterschool programs and the need for increased funding. To read more about the 2008 Afterschool for All Challenge, please [http://www.afterschoolalliance.org/challenge\\_2008.cfm](http://www.afterschoolalliance.org/challenge_2008.cfm).

- **Advocacy Now** – *The Advocacy Now: Tools and Resources on How to be a Voice for Children and Youth Series* were three one-hour, online organizational development sessions sponsored by the Network to help participants by providing tools, resources, and tips on public engagement and using communications to assemble support for afterschool programs. The first and second session focused on *Building Effective Legislative Relationships: Tools and Actions to Undertake Now and Understanding State and Federal Budgets*. The final session, *Strategic Communications: Working with the Media to Make Your Case*, provided participants with information on how to use the media to build a network of support. The session was presented by Gretchen Wright, Vice President of PR Solutions and Jen Rinehart, Vice President of Policy and Research for the Afterschool Alliance. Wright and Rinehart shared excellent resources such as sample press releases, pitch letters, Op-eds etc. The session was not only a success but an incredible tool for organizations seeking a way to organize a PR campaign for their program. To listen to these recorded sessions, please visit [www.psaydn.org](http://www.psaydn.org).

## PROMISING PRACTICES – PROVEN STRATEGIES

Learn about what is going on locally and nationally.

### Pennsylvania

On May 19, 2008 over 75 students representing 5 different counties in northwestern Pennsylvania gathered in Titusville, PA for the 3<sup>rd</sup> Annual Industry Club Expo as the culmination event of the Industry Club Program. The Industry Club Program was developed 4 years ago to give middle school students a chance to explore career opportunities within various industries in northwest Pennsylvania and has allowed youth an opportunity to focus their scholastic efforts toward fields that interest them for future employment. The clubs met two times per week for 8 weeks to study, tour and sometimes interview speakers in various Industries. The Expo, hosted by the Regional Center for Workforce Excellence (RCWE), provided youth the opportunity to present to peers and judges their favorite Industry to study. RCWE is a fiscal agent for the northwest PA Workforce Investment Area and an intermediary organization for the Northwest Pennsylvania Workforce Investment Board. For more information about the Industry Club Program, visit [www.nwpawib.org](http://www.nwpawib.org).

### Around the Country

In efforts to boost youth confidence and better prepare them for the workforce, the Charles Stewart Mott Foundation granted the Genesee Regional Chamber of Commerce (GRCC) \$775,000 to continue implementing its Summer Youth Initiative (SYI) in Flint, Michigan. SYI provides funding for more than 25 non-profit agencies and businesses to employ youth ages 14 through 18 in the Flint-area during the summer months. This year, over 450 youth will be employed in local business, recreational and education programs, engaged in volunteerism and have the opportunity to explore prospective career choices. According to GRCC's Group Vice-President of Operations and Employer Education & Training Connections, Rhett Hunyady, "...these youth are helping to create a new future for Genesee County." Last year approximately 400 youth participated in SYI and as a result these youth connected more than 7,000 other youth to local recreational and educational activities. For more information about SYI, please visit [www.thegrcc.org](http://www.thegrcc.org). For more information about the Mott Foundation, please visit [www.mott.org](http://www.mott.org).

## RECOMMENDED READING

Check-out these recent articles, research and reviews on afterschool and youth development issues.

- **Social Policy Report: Giving Child and Youth Development Knowledge Away** – This report examines previous literatures on the effectiveness of afterschool programs and identifies promising approaches to program improvements. To read this report, [http://www.srkd.org/documents/publications/spr/22-2\\_afterschool\\_programs.pdf](http://www.srkd.org/documents/publications/spr/22-2_afterschool_programs.pdf).
- **Putting It All Together: Guiding Principles for Quality After-School Programs Serving Preteens** – The Public/Private Ventures recently published a new report which focused on 6 components linked to

positive outcomes for youth. To read this report,  
[http://www.ppv.org/ppv/publications/assets/234\\_publication.pdf](http://www.ppv.org/ppv/publications/assets/234_publication.pdf).

## UPCOMING EVENTS

Mark your calendars; you don't want to miss these events.

**6/23/08 – 6/26/08 National Youth Gang Symposium: Partnering to Prevent Youth** – This event is hosted by Office of Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention and will be held in the Hilton Atlanta in Atlanta, GA. For more information about the event, visit [www.gangsymposium.org](http://www.gangsymposium.org).

**6/26/08 Greene County Afterschool Summit: A Continuum of Learning: PA Supports the Power of Afterschool** – This event will be held from 9 am to 1pm at Waynesburg University – Stover Center (3<sup>rd</sup> Floor) in Waynesburg, PA. For more information about the event or to register, please visit [www.psaydn.org/Greene.php](http://www.psaydn.org/Greene.php).

**6/27/08 Improving Long-Term Labor Market Prospects for Youth: Evidence from Career Academies** – This event will be held from 11:45 am until 1:30 pm. For more information about the forum or to register, please visit <http://www.aypf.org/forumbriefs/2008/fb062708.htm>.

## ADVOCACY CORNER

Sustain Afterschool Funding by Getting Involved – Here's a tip to help steer you in the right direction.

**Ensure Your Voice is Heard** – Pennsylvania General Assembly members will be negotiating the state budget through the end of June. Now is the time to urge your members to adequately fund programs for children and youth. Join the Pennsylvania Children's Advocacy Network (PA-CAN) to receive regular policy updates and "action alerts" for contacting lawmakers and other timely activities that are effective in advancing public policies during this important budget season and beyond. To join PA-CAN, please [click here](#). To find the home district address and phone number for your state elected officials, Visit [www.legis.state.pa.us](http://www.legis.state.pa.us). You will be able to search for your State Senator or Representative by entering your zip code.

The **PSAYDN** is a collaborative effort among state, regional and local partners. Its purpose is to promote sustainable, high-quality out-of-school time youth development programs through advocacy and capacity building to enhance the welfare of Pennsylvania's children, youth and families.

To learn more about PSAYDN, please contact:

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