



The following information is also available on www.psaydn.org.

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 2007

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THE SPOTLIGHT!

Celebrating Safe Communities – June is National Safety Month! Join the National Safety Council (NSC) in its effort to raise public awareness of safety and health risks. NSC is a nonprofit, nongovernmental, service organization founded and chartered by US Congress in the early 1950s to protect American lives and promote healthy choices. This year's National Safety Month theme is "Celebrating Safe Communities". Each week is designed to focus on a specific safety venue ranging from workplace to homes and communities. PSAYDN is encouraging organizations and community groups to support this effort by thinking about what you, as an organization, can do or have done to promote safe communities. Look out for PSAYDN's Summer Newsletter as it will feature what some of our Afterschool Partners are doing to keep kids in our communities safe. For more information about this event, please visit www.nsc.org.

PSAYDN UPDATE

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

- **Afterschool For All Challenge** – On Tuesday, April 24, 2007, more than 300 afterschool supporters participated in the Afterschool Alliance's "Afterschool For All Challenge" and visited more than 200 Congressional offices. PSAYDN, along with 21 representatives ranging from advocates, youth, parents, and providers from the Bethlehem, Harrisburg, Lancaster, Mifflin, Philadelphia, State College, and Snyder areas met with Pennsylvania federal lawmakers to discuss the importance of afterschool and the need for increased funding. Pennsylvania afterschool supporters met with 4 legislators and 7 staff who stated that they were "impressed" with the "diversity" of our group. Upon returning from the event, PSAYDN sent out thank you letters to all officials and has plans to invite Representatives to attend our upcoming Regional Afterschool Summits. For more information about this event, please visit www.afterschoolalliance.org.
- **PSAYDN Beyond 2007** – On April 27, 2007, PSAYDN held its Mott Foundation RFP Open Meeting to discuss the progress of PSAYDN after 3 years of operation and set future goals for the Network. Partners of PSAYDN discussed strategies for building the Network and strengthening partnerships, policy and government relations, and the quality of afterschool programs. All information gathered from this meeting will be used to help PSAYDN shape its goals for the next several years. For more information about this meeting, please contact Kisha Bird, PSAYDN Director, at (717) 763-1661, ext. 210.

PROMISING PRACTICES – PROVEN STRATEGIES

Learn about what is going on locally and nationally.

Pennsylvania

Schools and Homes in Education (SHINE) program, a 21st CCLC funded collaborative project of Lehigh Carbon Community College located in Carbon County, began serving its community in spring of 2005. The program is designed to be a comprehensive afterschool program that would provide academic support to students in grades K

through 3 and build a network of educational and social services. The program is inclusive of key components and existing afterschool programs such as the Kindergarten & Home Visitor Programs, Family Educational Plans, and more. In only two years of operation, the collaborative program has over 70% student improvement rates for students who participated for 30 or more days. In spring of 2007, PSAYDN joined several state and local leaders from Carbon County, including Senator Rhoades and Representative McCall, to discuss the power of the SHINE early intervention and afterschool program. Leaders discussed how the program could be replicated in other counties – how it leverages and braids a variety of state and local funding sources – and PSAYDN’s role in propelling promising practices such as the Shine program and the Carbon County Child Collaborative. To find out more about the program, please contact SHINE Director Jeanne Miller at (570) 669-7010.

Around the Country

The Harvard Education Press recently published *It's Being Done: Academic Success in Unexpected Schools* written by long-time education writer and former Washington Post columnist, Karen Chenoweth. Chenoweth examines and features 15 different schools across the nation that was once known for being the lowest achieving in their community and are now amongst the highest-achieving or rapidly improving schools. Each school attributed their success to the restructuring of their school curriculums and staff development as well as the implementation of promising practices such as M. Hall Stanton Elementary’s parental involvement programs “Parent Plus” and strong mentoring programs. According to Principal John Capozzi of Elemont Memorial Junior-Senior High School in New York, a full education includes “hidden curriculum” that is done through “extensive sport programs, clubs, and other after-school activities” that develop student’s character. Stanton Elementary, one of the featured schools located in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania, was honored last November by U.S. Secretary of Education, Margaret Spellings, for its exceptional improvement and declared “a beacon of hope for urban schools” by Spellings. To read The Harvard Education Press review of *It's Being Done: Academic Success in Unexpected Schools*, <http://www.hepg.org/hep/Book/65> or visit www.achievementalliance.org to find out more information about the featured schools. For more details on Stanton Elementary, <http://www.achievementalliance.org/files/Stanton.pdf>.

RECOMMENDED READING

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

- **Finding Funding: A Guide to Federal Sources for Youth Programs** - This guidance book is part of a series of books published by the Finance Project to provide policymakers and afterschool providers with tools and strategies to finance and sustain programs for youth. To read, please visit http://www.financeproject.org/publications/findingfunding_PM.pdf.
- **Postsecondary Expectations and High School Practice: The Gap Defined** - This report identifies differences in expectations of high school teachers and postsecondary teachers and presents action steps for policymakers. To read this full report, visit <http://www.act.org/path/policy/pdf/NCSPolicyBrief.pdf>.
- **Youth Helping America - Leveling the Path to Participation: Volunteering and Civic Engagement Among Youth From Disadvantaged Circumstances** - This report examines the attitudes and behaviors of youth from disadvantaged backgrounds who volunteer. To read this full report, visit <http://www.act.org/path/policy/pdf/NCSPolicyBrief.pdf>.

UPCOMING EVENTS

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

- **5/24/07 – A Continuum for Learning: PA Supports the Power of Afterschool** – PSAYDN’s Southeastern PA Regional Afterschool Summit will be held at Widener University in Chester, PA. For more information, visit PSAYDN website at www.psaydn.org.
- **5/31/07 – Northwestern PA Regional Afterschool Summit** – PSAYDN’s Northwestern PA Regional Afterschool Summit will be held at the Boys and Girls Club of Erie in Erie, PA. For more information, visit PSAYDN website at www.psaydn.org.
- **6/5/07 – Public Education Advocacy Day** – Support public education in the 2007-2008 state budget and bring the call for educational equity to the doorstep of legislators by participating in a Harrisburg Advocacy Day on June 5th 2007. For more information, please contact Good Schools Pennsylvania at 1-866-720-4086 or email info@goodschoolspa.org.

- **6/14/07 – Lehigh Valley Regional Afterschool Summit** – PSAYDN's Northeastern PA Regional Afterschool Summit in partnership with 21st Century Community Learning Centers at Northampton Community College in Bethlehem, PA. For information, please visit PSAYDN website at www.psaydn.org.
- **6/18/07 – 6/20/07 – Multiple Cultures, Multiple Voices: Effectively Educating All Children** – This event is sponsored by Penn State Harrisburg and the Pennsylvania Department of Education and will be held at the Holiday Inn East in Harrisburg, PA. For more information, visit www.center-school.org/esl.
- **7/9/07 – 7/13/07 – National Institute on Out-of-School Time Summer Seminars 2007: Training for Afterschool Professionals** – NIOST seminars will be held at the John Hancock Conference Center in Boston, MA. For more information, please visit www.niost.org.

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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