



# FLORIDA AFTERSCHOOL ALLIANCE

# Link SPECIAL EDITION

[www.floridaafterschool.org](http://www.floridaafterschool.org)



Keywords - Florida After School Alliance

## AWARDS OF EXCELLENCE

### CELEBRATING AFTER SCHOOL PROFESSIONALS

The Florida After School Alliance (FASA) and 21<sup>st</sup> CCLC are proud to provide this **special edition** of the Link to celebrate the **2009 AWARDS OF EXCELLENCE WINNERS**. FASA established the Awards of Excellence in 2000 to honor Florida's exemplary after school professionals. Winners were recognized for their outstanding commitment to children and their remarkable contributions to the school age care profession at our 2009 state conference. The Awards of Excellence are bestowed annually to encourage professionalism and excellence in after school programs. Do you know someone that you feel is deserving of this honor? Help us celebrate the Awards of Excellence 10 year anniversary by nominating an extraordinary child care professional or advocate for 2010! Simply go to the FASA web site at [www.floridaafterschool.org](http://www.floridaafterschool.org) to download the form, fill it out, and fax it to FASA at (727) 578-2817. Awards of Excellence categories include:

**Front Line** – Individual who works directly with children, provides supervision and guidance for children. Also does program planning, parent communication & community involvement. Examples: teachers, group leaders, assistants.

**Supervisor – Single Site** – Individual who supervises/oversees the school-age program at one location. Responsibilities include program implementation, evaluation, staff supervision, parent communication, relationship-building .

**Supervisor – Multi – Site** – Individual who supervises / oversees the school-age program at two or more locations. Responsibilities include program administration, evaluation, supervision, communication, relationship-building.

**Administrator / Central Office / Agency** – Administrator who has embraced and supported the after school program at their school or site, or in their district.

**Advocacy** – Individual, group or organization that has worked to increase public awareness of the value of quality after school programs and garner support and funding for after school programs for all children.

**Volunteer** – Individual or groups who have offered volunteer support .

**Public Official** – Public official who has contributed to awareness, support or funding of after school programming.

**Other** – Nominee fits a unique category not listed, please give complete details.

### Inside this issue:

### AND OUR WINNERS ARE ...



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# Administrator/ Central Office/Agency **DJ Wright**

Nominated by: Jessica Wallace

DJ Wright, Principal of Oak Ridge Elementary School, has been supportive of after school activities and specifically 21st CCLC programming. She goes above and beyond and works very closely with colleagues in the field to make sure students reap the maximum benefit from participating.



\_\_\_ accepting for DJ Wright

Ms. Wright does more than talk about supporting the goals of the 21st CCLC grant; she actually commits school resources to making sure the provider reaches their goals. When funding and the number of scholarships were severely limited, Mrs. Wright used other money to pay teachers to serve more students. In fact, her support allowed the provider to increase the number of students served this past summer by 40%! She also works closely with the provider team to make sure as many students as possible get access to additional tutoring and schedules it in a way that positively impacts the budget. Mrs. Wright used her professional connections to make sure the provider had the best teachers and staff instructing their students. Her creative, detail-oriented planning and willingness to always think outside the box helps them reach all their goals. If there is ever an opportunity for her to advertise or advocate for the provider, she takes advantage of it. She believes in the value of after school time and supports all efforts to provide a safe environment for the children during those crucial hours. DJ Wright is exactly the type of administrator every school needs to have a successful after school program that positively impacts the families it serves.

# Bobbi Davis Advocacy

Nominated by: Debbie Zenk

Before 2004 after school program advocacy was basically non-existent in the Tampa Bay Area. Around that same time Congresswoman Kathy Castor, then member of the Hillsborough County Commission and Chairperson for the Children's Board Advocacy Committee, formed the Out-of-School Time Task force. The timing was perfect and the next step was to select an expert to lead our group. The dictionary defines expert as "having a great deal of knowledge about, or skill, training, or experience in a particular field or activity." If there were ever a perfect fit for this role we had just the right person in our own backyard. The children of Tampa Bay area have a champion in Bobbi Davis.

Bobbi served as an Afterschool Ambassador for the Afterschool Alliance. Over the past 5 years she has accomplished a great deal. Bobbi receives remarkable buy in from the OST community because she actively listens to their needs. She works with foundations and agencies to obtain additional support and funding. She was instrumental in writing a technical assistance grant for City Leaders supporting after school and a New Day for Learning from the National League of Cities involving the school district, City of Tampa, and Hillsborough Children's Board. Tampa was one of only 8 cities selected. Under her tutelage POST (Partnership for Out of School Time) remains focused on its vision: "Every child/youth will have high quality out of school time opportunities that are accessible, inclusive, and accountable."

# Supervisor Single Site Shanique Scott



*Bennie Drain accepting for  
Shanique Scott*

Nominated by: Teal Chance and Bennie Drain

Shanique Scott knew at an early age that she wanted to make a difference in a child's life. Her desire and ambition to make this dream a reality would soon come true. She studied and worked as a choreographer for the Phlava Dance Company and interned with the Debbie Allen Dance Academy. While in school, Shanique dedicated numerous hours working with youth to become self-reliant by focusing on personal development and school and community success through discipline, empowerment, and the arts.

Shanique came to Street Beat in 2007 after being a student herself. As the Principal Choreographer/Artistic Director she creates choreography that infuses hip-hop, ballet, jazz, and lyrical movements to the latest contemporary gospel tunes. Her choreography has led Street Beat to perform for Russell Simmons, the Muse Awards, and the Orange Bowl half-time show.

Shanique could have gone anywhere but chose to come back to her home town to empower youth. She is energetic, compassionate, and dedicated about the work that she does, which is reflected in the youth at Street Beat. I could not think of a more deserving person than Shanique.

# Dr. Linnett Jones

## Supervisor Multi-Site

Nominated by: Niketra Johnson

Dr. Linnett "Multi-Tasker" Jones is our Multi-Site Director and multi-tasking is her middle name. Dr. Jones received her Doctoral Degree and completed her dissertation on After School Programs. She is a graduate of NOVA Southeastern University. Her natural ability to communicate effectively and emphatically makes her a remarkable woman to work for.



As Project Manager of ALL Title 1 schools; a job that only few people are capable and qualified to do, she has done it with flare, confidence, and passion. I would like to say that she "upgraded" the program by bringing in highly qualified businesses and professionals from the community to work in our schools.

One of the BEST things I LOVE about working for her is that I work with her. One of my fondest memories was when we put on a production of the Wizard of Oz; I told her I wanted the BIG! Big props, Big backdrop, Big! On a Saturday she dragged her body in and painted scenes for our play. It was AWESOME! She understood my passion for being the best and she did her best to make it happen.

This nomination letter in no way speaks about her everyday administrative duties that keep us in compliance of the grant, but it speaks to how she goes above and beyond to ensure that every student benefits greatly from what the grant has to offer.

# FRONT LINE STAFF Gretchen Myers

Nominated by:



Ms. Gretchen, an outstanding teacher with the 21st CCLC program at Riley Chase Apartment Complex in North Port, works directly with elementary and middle school children providing supervision and guidance in this low income housing community.

Ms. Myers always goes above and beyond what is expected, initiating contact with parents and teachers to check on student's progress, spending her own funds on unique supplies for unusual arts and crafts projects, and working extensively to provide homework help.

She has a great rapport with the children and their parents. Ms. Myers is very active with the parents in the community and also works with the high school volunteers who help with the recreational activities. The 21st CCLC program is very fortunate to have people of the caliber of Ms. Gretchen Myers who are willing to work with our children. Ms. Myers is definitely an asset to our 21st CCLC program, Riley Chase Apartments, and the North Port Community.

# Other: Zelmond "Richie" Morgan

Nominated by: Tammy Brinker



Zelmond "Richie" Morgan may not fit in the traditional sense of an after school professional as he is a bus driver. Richie drives for the YMCA of the Suncoast Hernando programs during summer and for any after school activity that requires transportation.

Richie has provided training to all of our staff to insure the safety of children and adults while being transported. He is committed to the safety of all riding his bus and is truly grateful for the opportunity to work with children.

Richie has genuine respect for the children and in return is respected by all that come in contact with him ... which is truly the ultimate testament to any after school professional.



*Rhonda Jewell accepting for Zelmond "Richie" Morgan*



# Public Official Lorraine Ausley

Nominated by: Lani Lingo

Lorraine Ausley currently serves as Board Chair of the Florida Healthy Kids Corporation, and as a senior advisor to the Lawton Chiles Foundation. She has just completed four terms in the Florida House of Representatives, and is an attorney with over 20 years of public service at the State and Federal level.

Ausley's legislative agenda focused around the issues that are important to North Florida: economic development; respecting the role of state employees; health care; and education, particularly early childhood initiatives. She has worked on these issues both in the legislature and in her community becoming known statewide as a "Champion for Children."

Ausley's leadership of the 2006 Florida Children's Summit led to the introduction and passage of legislation to create a Children and Youth Cabinet. Today, Representative Ausley proudly serves as one of two legislative Members on the Cabinet. Ausley has also focused on a number of issues related to children and adults with disabilities, including her service as chair of the Vision Caucus and as a member of Governor Crist's statewide Task Force on Autism Spectrum Disorders.

Ausley is a member of Leadership Florida's Class XX, and has served as a Leadership Florida Board Member and Regional Chair. In 2003, she was selected as one of the Democratic Leadership Council's "100 to Watch", and in 2007 was named to the inaugural class of DLC fellows which included 25 "up and coming" elected officials from across the country.

Ausley has received numerous awards and recognitions from local and statewide organizations and has been named Legislator of the Year by the Florida Association of Healthy Start Coalitions, the Florida School Board Association, and the Florida Developmental Disabilities Council, to name a few.

Ausley received her B.A. degree from Randolph-Macon Woman's College, and her law degree from Washington and Lee University School of Law. She is married to local intellectual property attorney Bill Hollimon. But, Ausley would agree that her greatest accomplishment is being mother to her son Will and step-son, John.

## Special Thanks to Eric Daniel Johnson

The entire FASA Board would like to take this opportunity to thank Eric Daniel Johnson for his years of service on the FASA Board of Directors. Mr. Johnson's contributions to FASA are greatly appreciated. While he will be missed, we know that he will remain a champion for FASA. We wish Eric continued success in his provision of quality after school programs for the children and youth in the Jacksonville area.



# MEMBERSHIP INFORMATION



Florida After School Alliance  
 P.O. Box 20425  
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 Phone: 727-568-0778  
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 www.FloridaAfterSchool.org

The mission of FASA is to provide leadership, to support professionals and to promote quality programs for children and youth during out-of-school hours. To accomplish its mission, FASA provides training, advocacy, and networking opportunities for after school professionals throughout Florida.

By joining FASA, you are supporting the critical service that school age programs provide to communities and families. Your membership connects you with professionals who share your commitment to quality.

**Every Member of FASA is a member of the National AfterSchool Association (NAA). FASA membership meets the Director's Credential criteria for individual membership in a national, state, or local professional organization.**

**Single Membership — \$45**

Single Member benefits include:

- One FASA Membership—one member certificate
- Discounted rate for FASA training events for individual member
- FASA's quarterly newsletter — *The Link*
- Access to FASA's Web site — COMING SOON: the ability to post employment opportunities and access a list of school age trainers

**Organizational Membership — \$125**

Organizational Membership benefits include:

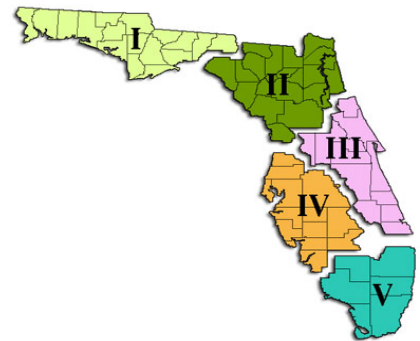
- Four FASA Memberships—four member certificates
- Discounted rates for FASA training events for each organizational member
- FASA's quarterly newsletter — *The Link*
- Access to FASA's Web site — COMING SOON: the ability to post employment opportunities and access a list of school age trainers

*\*\*All FASA memberships are effective for the calendar year, January through December.\*\**

## Meet Your FASA Board Members

REGION	POSITION	NAME	EXECUTIVE BOARD	
1	Director of Training	<i>Vacant</i>	President	Sharon Carie
1	Director of Membership	Jessica Wallace	Vice President	Kevin Cataldo
2	Director of Training	<i>Vacant</i>	1 <sup>st</sup> Vice President	Deb Ballinger
2	Director of Membership	<i>Vacant</i>	Secretary	Katherine Gopie
3	Director of Training	Kathi Jennings	Treasurer	Rhonda Rogers
3	Director of Membership	Greg Snow		
4	Director of Training	Kathie DiPolito		
4	Director of Membership	Raymond Long		
5	Director of Training	Robert Liebman		
5	Director of Membership	<i>Vacant</i>		
	Member at Large	Lani Lingo		
	Member at Large	<i>Vacant</i>		
	Member at Large	Debbie Zenk		

Region I  
 Region II  
 Region III  
 Region IV  
 Region V



Interested in serving on the FASA board or a committee? Need more information about FASA in your region? Visit [www.floridaafterschool.org](http://www.floridaafterschool.org)



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