



# NEWS RELEASE

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## **MOST CONGRESSIONAL CANDIDATES SUPPORT FEDERAL FUNDING FOR OUT-OF-SCHOOL TIME AND “STEM” PROGRAMS**

*Candidates in 7 of 9 Districts Responded to AzCASE Survey*

PHOENIX, Ariz. (Aug. 7, 2014): All but one candidate running for Congress who responded to an Arizona Center for Afterschool Excellence (AzCASE) survey support continued Federal funding for the 21<sup>st</sup> Century Community Learning Center Initiative and the Child Care and Development Fund and would back legislation to fund out-of-school time STEM programs.

The three-question survey was sent to candidates running for seats in the House of Representatives in all nine Arizona Congressional districts. Eleven candidates responded including all five from District 7.

Rep. Ann Kirkpatrick (CD1), Rep. Ron Barber (CD2), Rep. Raul Grijalva (CD3), Mikel Weisser (CD4), W. John Williamson (CD6), Randy Camacho (CD7), Ruben Gallego (CD7), Jarrett Maupin (CD7), Mary Rose Wilcox (CD7) and Rep. Kyrsten Sinema (CD9) confirmed their support for:

- continued funding for the 21<sup>st</sup> Century Community Learning Center Initiative that provides free high-quality afterschool, before school and summer programming to more than 25,000 Arizona children in high-poverty areas;
- continued funding for the Child Care and Development Fund initiative that began in the 1990s to assist low-income families obtain child care, including through out-of-school time programs, enabling parents to work or receive job training, and
- the Supporting Afterschool STEM Act to help prepare high school students for college-level math and science required for jobs in science, technology, engineering and math (STEM). The U.S. Department of Commerce projects that by 2018 the number of American jobs in STEM fields will have increased nearly 20 percent since 2008. Eighty percent of those jobs will go to individuals and an Associate, Bachelor or post-graduate degree.

“The survey questions targeted very specific and vitally important programs designed to provide quality out-of-school time enrichment opportunities for school-age children who spend less than 20 percent of their waking hours in traditional classrooms,” said AzCASE Executive Director Melanie McClintock. “There is significant research showing that children involved in out-of-school time programs improve their math and English grades as well as their classroom behavior and participation. At the same time, the proposed Supporting Afterschool STEM Act will create a grant process to support out-of-school time STEM programs that help prepare our students for the workforce and the next phase

of their lives.”

No responses were received from candidates in Districts 5 and 8 and of those responding, only Libertarian Joe Cobb (CD7) said he would not support funding the programs, writing that “I do not believe funding these activities is authorized in Article 1, Section 8 of the U.S. Constitution.”

To view all of the survey responses, go to [www.afterschool.org/2014survey](http://www.afterschool.org/2014survey).

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#### **ABOUT THE ARIZONA CENTER FOR AFTERSCHOOL EXCELLENCE**

The Arizona Center for Afterschool Excellence is dedicated to the enhancement of youth development and educational achievement through quality out-of-school time programming. The Arizona Center is one of 47 statewide afterschool networks nationwide supported by the C.S. Mott Foundation. For more information, visit <http://afterschool.org/>

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