



Arizona Center for **Afterschool** Excellence

## NEWS RELEASE

### Contacts:

Lisa Rice, Executive Director, Arizona Center for Afterschool Excellence, (602) 279-7101

Steve Carr, The Kur Carr Group, Inc., (602) 253-5838

### FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

#### **FROM ADDRESSING OBESITY TO THE POWER OF ART, 400 PROFESSIONALS AT 2007 AFTERSCHOOL CONFERENCE WILL TAKE ON RANGE OF ISSUES**

*City of Flagstaff, Town of Marana, Tucson Advocate to be Honored*

PHOENIX, Ariz. (Oct. 15, 2007): More than 400 teachers, directors, administrators, staff, program organizers, advocates, and afterschool professionals from across Arizona will take on a range of topics from strategies to address youth drug abuse, enhancing the health of children, behavior management, and developing moral reasoning at the 2007 Afterschool Conference presented by the Arizona Center for Afterschool Excellence.

The one-day event on Saturday, Oct. 20 at the Mesa Convention Center, 263 N. Center St., features three sessions of hour-long workshops beginning at 10 a.m. and an awards luncheon where 2007 Awards of Excellence will be presented by the Arizona Center for Afterschool Excellence.

Sponsors are the Arizona Department of Education, Arizona Community Foundation and the Governor's Office for Children, Youth and Families.

Awardees include the Town of Marana for afterschool program excellence and the Flagstaff City Council for championing afterschool programs. Individual awards will be presented to Annie Himebaugh of Tucson, whose work exemplifies afterschool best practices, and Lisa Rice, who will receive the Jane Romatzke Afterschool Leadership Award.

The keynote address will be presented by Paulo Mattioli, a world-renowned drummer, educator, and trainer, who has created a series of strategies for youth fitness programs. His remarks will include the latest research about the benefits of group-drumming programs.

Among the topics of the more than 40 workshops scheduled throughout the day are: Current Issues Impacting Children; Community Partners: Inspiring Kids to Success in the Real World; How to Bring Arts Education into Afterschool Settings; Youth Drug Abuse: Facts About Current Trends and Strategies to Help You Do Something About It; Art Matters! Building Creativity for Lifelong Learning; Behavior Management: Do's and Don't's; Knowing Right from Wrong: The Development of Moral Reasoning; Weighing In – The New Norm for Girls; FitRhythms: Interactive Drum & Dance Program.

Cost information for the conference is available at <http://www.afterschool.org/Conferences.htm>

For more information about the Arizona Center for Afterschool Excellence, visit [www.afterschool.org](http://www.afterschool.org).

-30-

**Successful Children and Youth. Empowered Professionals. Effective Public Policy.**

700 W. Campbell Avenue, Suite 3 • Phoenix, AZ 85013 • TEL (602) 279-7100 • WEB [www.afterschool.org](http://www.afterschool.org)

### **About the Arizona Center for Afterschool Excellence**

Formerly called the Arizona School-Age Coalition, the statewide organization changed its name in 2007 to better reflect its mission to improve access to high quality out-of-school learning opportunities for all Arizona children and youth through professional development, advocacy, and community capacity building. The Arizona Center for Afterschool Excellence is the professional organization for individuals working in the afterschool field, the focal point for quality initiatives regarding out-of-school time services, and the only statewide organization providing professional development opportunities for administrators and direct service staff. The Arizona Center for Afterschool Excellence is an affiliate of the National Afterschool Association. For more information, visit [www.azafterschool.org](http://www.azafterschool.org).