



South Carolina Afterschool Alliance (SCAA)
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Media Advisory

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:

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SOUTH CAROLINA AFTERSCHOOL ALLIANCE HOSTS 8TH ANNUAL STATEWIDE AFTER SCHOOL CONFERENCE

Columbia, South Carolina – Over five hundred (500) government, business, faith and community leaders will come together to learn about new programs, curricula and strategies that can address some of the economic and social issues that confront the children and youth of South Carolina at the 8th Annual Statewide After School Conference. The conference theme is *“Soaring Beyond Expectations: Enhancing Quality in the 21st Century.”* The conference program will offer thirty (30) workshop sessions, two (2) keynote speakers and a special conversation with State Superintendent Jim Rex.

WHO: South Carolina Afterschool Alliance (SCAA) and South Carolina Department of Education/21st Century Community Learning Centers Program

WHAT: 2009 Statewide After School Conference

WHERE: Columbia Metropolitan Convention Center
1101 Lincoln Street
Columbia, South Carolina 29201

WHEN: Monday, September 21, 2009: 9:00 am – 5:00 pm
Tuesday, September 22, 2009: 9:00 am – 2:30 pm

EVENT HIGHLIGHTS:

MAWI ASGEDOM TO OPEN 2009 STATEWIDE AFTER SCHOOL CONFERENCE

Monday, September 21, 2009: 9:00am – 10:15am

Mawi Asgedom, national best-selling author and founder of Mental Karate, will address conference participants during the opening plenary session. Mawi fled civil war in Ethiopia, survived a Sudanese refugee camp, and overcame poverty, language barriers and personal tragedy to graduate from Harvard University where he delivered the commencement address to an audience of thirty thousand (30,000). Mawi has trained educators at the Harvard School of Education, The Midwest Principal’s Center and many international conferences.

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MUNICIPAL LEADERS TO DISCUSS CHALLENGES FACING CITIES AND TOWNS WITH STATE SUPERINTENDENT

Monday, September 21, 2009: 10:30 am – 12:00 pm

State Superintendent of Education, Jim Rex, and municipal leaders will discuss economic and social issues that have an impact on student achievement, how to build partnerships among communities and local schools and the ways in which after school programs provide the support needed to address challenges facing the cities and towns of South Carolina.

JUDGE HATCHETT DISCUSSES THE IMPORTANCE OF AFTER SCHOOL PROGRAMS

Tuesday, September 22, 2009: 12: 30pm – 2:15 pm

Judge Glenda Hatchett will discuss the importance of after school programs for children, youth and families in the 21st Century. Hatchett presides over the syndicated show, *Judge Hatchett* currently in its 8th season and is author of the national bestseller, *Say What You Mean, Mean What You Say*.

The South Carolina Afterschool Alliance (SCAA) is a statewide network of after school providers devoted to improving quality of services. The SCAA is a resource and advocate for approximately one thousand (1000) school, community, non-profit and faith-based after school programs representing approximately more than one hundred ninety thousand (190,000) South Carolinians. For more information about the 8th Annual Statewide Afterschool Conference, please call 866-237-5454 or visit www.scafterschool.com

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