

WFIT Advocates for Healthy Kids and Families on Capitol Hill – Posted 8.6.10

A World Fit For Kids! (WFIT) Executive Director Normandie Nigh engaged top leaders in Washington...

A World Fit For Kids! (WFIT) Executive Director Normandie Nigh engaged top leaders in Washington DC with an innovative, highly cost-effective approach to childhood obesity: combating the crisis from the platform of comprehensive afterschool programs. In collaboration with two other champions for kids, Andi Fletcher of the Center for Collaborative Solutions and Kellee McQuinn of KidTribe, presentations were made to introduce the Healthy Behaviors - Changing Lives, Saving Lives Initiative. This coordinated effort will establish healthy behaviors "learning centers" in high-need communities across California and nationwide.

The Initiative drew significant interest from the representatives of key Congressional legislators, White House officials and educational leaders, including:

Dana Carr

Director of Health, Mental Health, Environmental Health, and Physical Education Programs

U.S. Dept. of Education's Office of Safe and Drug Free Schools

Helen Pacjic, Education Policy Associate

Member of Congress George Miller (CA), Chairman of the House Committee on Education and Labor

Amanda J. Schaumburg, Education Policy Counsel

James P. Bergeron, Deputy Director for Education & Human Services Policy

Allison Dembeck, Professional Staff Member

House Committee on Education & Labor

Andrea Cernich, Director, Strategic Partnerships

President's Council on Physical Fitness, Sports & Nutrition

Steve Robinson, PhD

Special Assistant, Domestic Policy Council, The White House

Lauren D. Gilchrist, MPH, Health Policy Advisor

Senator Al Franken (MN)

Maria Worthen, Education Policy Advisor

Bethany Molinari Little, Chief Education Counsel

Senator Tom Harkin (IA), Chairman, Committee on Health, Education, Labor and Pensions

Joe Kasper, Communications Director & Policy Advisor

Member of Congress Duncan Hunter (CA)

Martin J. Blank, President, Institute for Educational Leadership

Director, Coalition for Community Schools

Shital Shah, Manager of Policy & Partnerships

Coalition for Community Schools

Thomas Richards, Senior Manager, Public Policy

International Health, Racquet & Sportsclub Association

Ellie Mitchell, After School Strategy Project Manager

Felicity Turner, Out of School Time Strategist

Baltimore's Safe & Sound Campaign

Jodi Grant, Executive Director

Rivka Burstein-Stern, Field Outreach Coordinator

Erik Peterson, Policy Director

Afterschool Alliance