

Iowa Extended Learning Initiative

Extending Learning Afterschool

The Need:

- » Iowa's students are often unprepared for post-secondary employment and education.
- » There is a significant achievement gap between high and low income students in Iowa's schools.
- » Many of our students do not have the opportunity to interact with positive adults outside of the classroom.
- » Iowa's working families face limited access to child care and afterschool opportunities for their children. Quality programs can be expensive for parents or eligibility-restricted. In some communities there are no options at all.

A number of factors play a role in creating the need, including:

- » Increased competition for high-paying jobs in today's economy.
- » Increased attention on improving test scores means lower priority for electives including foreign language, vocational education, the arts, physical education, and career preparation and exploration.
- » Decreasing investments in child social and emotional well-being, family nutrition and health, family self-sufficiency, and workforce supports including child care, afterschool, and family-friendly employer policies.

With our Extended Learning Day Initiative, the Iowa Afterschool Alliance is assessing how afterschool can meet the social, career, and educational needs of older youth.

- » Oskaloosa and Sioux City, Iowa, are developing afterschool programs targeting ninth-grade youth. Lead organizations for the pilot programs are Indian Hills Community College and the Siouxland Human Investment Partnership, respectively.
- » Programs will begin in the fall of 2011 and run through the school year.
- » The goal of the Extended Learning Day Initiative is to connect older youth with opportunities for 21st Century skill building through partnerships between schools, community colleges, non-profit organizations, and business.
- » Oskaloosa and Sioux City see their respective afterschool programs as a way to connect youth to their communities, with the intention that prepared high school graduates will choose to stay in the community.

The Iowa Afterschool Alliance has committed \$7,500 seed grants to both Indian Hills Community College and the Siouxland Human Investment Partnership and will provide in-depth technical assistance and support to both pilot sites. To develop truly innovative, effective programming for youth in their community, additional investment is being sought within the communities.



For more information on the Iowa Extended Learning Initiative, please contact:

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