

Director Update: May 2010 ~ Antonio Greene

Antonio Greene attended the 2010 National Afterschool Association conference in National Harbor, Maryland from April 18-22. Leading off the conference was actor, author, philanthropist, and motivational speaker, Hill Harper. Mr. Harper shared his experience and reminded us all why this work is critical to creating positive outcomes for children and youth. The message was clear that we as afterschool program leaders must compete with the media and video gaming companies and provide safe havens for our youth in which our programs must promote positive creative movements and fitness; character development; social development and academic achievement.

To accomplish this task, careful consideration must be taken during the implementation of these programs and services to assure that students see the value in its objectives. Over the next several weeks, the 21st Century Advisory Council will meet and discuss the proposed strategy for a mentoring program to assist the staff and students in the afterschool program. There will be four phases to implementing this mentoring program with the full roll-out at the beginning of the 2010-2011 school year. The focus of the program will be at the secondary level with an emphasis on service learning in which the secondary students may participate in a student driven mentoring program for the elementary school students.

Currently, the 21st Century Program is held at Penn Wood High School. During the month of May 2010, an afterschool program will be implemented at the Penn Wood Middle School until the end of the school year. During the summer 2010, a credit recovery program is proposed for the Penn Wood Middle School and Penn Wood High School. A math and literacy camp is also proposed with intense academic enrichment and instruction.