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**EDUCATION**

Providence after-school program among top government innovations

PASA is one of 50 semifinalists nationwide for the 2009 Innovations in American Government Award

By PBN Staff

PROVIDENCE – The Providence After School Alliance (PASA) has been ranked among the Top 50 Government Innovations of 2008 by the Ash Institute for Democratic Governance and Innovation at Harvard University's John F. Kennedy School of Government.

"I am extremely proud of the work we've done over the past six years – under the leadership of PASA Executive Director Hillary Salmons – to make PASA a model of excellence for after-school programs," Mayor David N. Cicilline said in a statement today.

The public-private effort recently was awarded a three-year, \$500,000 grant from the Charles Stewart Mott Foundation, one of only two such grants awarded nationwide. ([READ MORE](#))

Now, PASA is among 50 semifinalists selected via "rigorous evaluations by policy experts and practitioners from across the country," Cicilline said. It is vying against innovative solutions within a host of policy areas, including health and human services; community and economic development; education and training; criminal justice; transportation and infrastructure; and the environment.

"In this climate of economic uncertainty, these Top 50 innovative government programs demonstrate that creativity and innovation can still survive and flourish," said Stephen Goldsmith, director of the Innovations in American Government program at the Ash Institute. "Despite strained budgets and diminishing resources, these programs prove that government continues to find solutions to pressing societal challenges."

The Innovations in American Government Award was created by the Ford Foundation in 1985 to help restore the public's trust in government by promoting public-sector creativity and excellence.

Finalists in the 2009 program will be announced May 18. Each will make a presentation on May 27 before the national selection committee, chaired by Kennedy School Professor of Public Service David Gergen. In September, the panel will announce the final Innovations winners for 2009.

The Providence After School Alliance – established in 2004 by the City of Providence and the former Education Partnership – seeks to expand and improve after-school opportunities for local youth. It has received major support from The Wallace Foundation, Bank of America, the Nellie Mae Education Foundation, the City of Providence and Mayor David N. Cicilline. For more information, visit www.myPASA.org.



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"I AM EXTREMELY PROUD of the work we've done over the past six years – under the leadership of PASA Executive Director Hillary Salmons – to make PASA a model of excellence for after-school programs," said Mayor David N. Cicilline, shown joining Providence children in working with clay during a PASA workshop last summer.