



Speaker Biographies for
Financing and Sustaining
Youth and Afterschool Programs in Rural Communities
Thursday, August 21, 2008 from 2:00pm – 3:00pm EST

ERIKA ARGERSINGER currently serves as Policy Director for the Afterschool Alliance, where she works with senior leadership to develop policy goals and implement a policy plan that helps advance afterschool for all. She works to communicate the impact of policy on afterschool program providers, children and families and to make recommendations for future policy decisions. Ms. Argersinger has been an advocate for children and families for over 10 years. She has advocated on behalf of immigrant and homeless populations, Head Start children and families, in addition to her focus on child care, afterschool and other family issues. Prior to joining the Alliance, she worked as the Associate Director of Government Affairs at the National Head Start Association where she worked with policy makers and Hill staff on Head Start reauthorization and appropriations and coordinated advocacy activities with state associations and other coalitions. She has worked on and managed political campaigns at the city and state level. Before coming to Washington DC, Ms. Argersinger held public policy positions in both Utah and Massachusetts. She holds a Masters degree in public policy and child development from Tufts University in Massachusetts, and is an Emerging Leaders Fellow with the Children's Defense Fund.

SHANNA FRANCISCO-KING serves as Coordinator of MHC After 3, a regional best-practices afterschool system positively affecting lives of youth in rural Virginia. Shanna works to ensure that the youth of Martinsville Henry County have universal access to high quality, professionally mentored out of school time programming. MHC After 3 is a collaboration of thirteen organizations that have pledged to share resources, funding, staff, and expertise in order to support the holistic development youth and to improve the quality of life of area families. As Coordinator of the system, Shanna works to broker relationships with new partners, service providers and vendors on behalf of partners and participants. She coordinates professional development opportunities for staff, instructors and mentors, provides leadership to the MHC After 3 partnership, advisory council, and boards. Shanna also manages fund development, public relations, programming and future planning of MHC After 3. Most importantly Shanna serves as a community and youth advocate locally, regionally, and nationally for high quality out of school time programming for youth on behalf of MHC After 3 and the Martinsville Henry County Community.

Shanna has been directly involved in educational arenas for 14 years as youth development volunteer, educational outreach specialist, college readiness counselor, college faculty and life-long learning advocate. As a volunteer youth worker throughout college, she developed a life-long passion for "holding the door open" for all youth. Research and experience revealed that students in rural communities have greater need than their urban counterparts in terms of socio-economic status, educational attainment, and cultural exposure. Shanna moved to a wonderfully welcoming rural community of Martinsville, Virginia in 1999. She spent 5 years working with Federal TRiO programs in Martinsville Henry County and has served on the boards of the Martinsville Henry County Chamber of Commerce Education Advisory, Helping Empower Youth, Communities Helping Improve Local Lives, Linking K-12 to Higher Education Advisory,

Martinsville Uptown Revitalization Advisory, and Arts Advisory Committee for Martinsville Henry County Economic Development Corporation. Shanna continues to work directly with the youth of the community through facilitation of a week-long summer camp for College Readiness and Career Connections. She also facilitates interactive programming to promote and enhance youth volunteerism in the region. Shanna lives on a farm with her husband Robert and two daughters in one of the most beautiful mountain valleys in the United States.

DEBBIE MOELLENDORF has been with UW-Extension since June of 1989. During this time, she has served in a variety of roles. She began her career as the 4-H Youth Development Agent in Lincoln and Taylor Counties until January of 1992. At this time, she became the full time 4-H Youth Development Agent in Lincoln County. In 1999, Debbie accepted the half-time role of serving as the State 4-H Youth Development Program Liaison for Central and Northern Districts while continuing in Lincoln County half-time. In January of 2004, Debbie returned to Lincoln County full time as the 4-H Youth Development Agent and also assumed the role of Department Head.

The primary focus of Debbie's programming over the years has been to involve young people in leadership roles and as partners in decision-making with adults. This has included work with the Lincoln County 4-H Board of Directors and County Project Committees, Lincoln County Teen Court Steering Committee, and the "After the Bell" (middle school after school program) Steering Committee. In her work, Debbie continually looks for ways to work in partnerships with other agencies/organizations as she builds bridges between the community 4-H club program and her community youth development work. By working in this manner, she extends the University resources to a larger segment of the county. Debbie has both a Bachelor's and Master's degree from the University of Wisconsin-Madison in Sociology. Her emphasis was in the areas of sociological research and social psychology.