



April 7, 2016

The Foundation for Public Education  
PO Box 22252  
Phoenix, AZ 85028

Dear Foundation Board,

On behalf of the Arizona Center for Afterschool Excellence, I am pleased to recommend Future for Kids and their efforts to improve the lives of Arizona students through after school programming.

Arizona Center for Afterschool Excellence (AzCASE) is the state's leading advocate and information resource promoting the expansion and sustainability of quality afterschool programming. Afterschool programs are no longer simply child care programs designed to give children a safe place to go. Instead they are often referred to as extended learning opportunities due to the increasingly important role they play in our children's education. Afterschool programs are growing in scope, complexity and effectiveness to supplement the formal school day and provide students the knowledge and skills required to enter the 21<sup>st</sup> Century workforce.

As an organization, AzCASE is committed to improving access to quality out of school time programming by working with program providers around the state. Future for Kids is one of the organizations we are happy to have on our list of quality providers. Future for Kids not only serves the out school time needs of those who have limited resources to access such programming, they offer quality programming to those children. They have signed the AzCASE Make it Count pledge, demonstrating their commitment to using the Quality Standards to strengthen their program offerings and positive youth outcomes. Their staff also attends our professional development offerings showing their commitment to growth and learning within their own ranks.

Research has shown that a quality after school program keeps youth in a safe environment where they are **three times less likely** to participate in behaviors such as gang activity, drug and alcohol use and risky sexual activity. Future for Kids not only provides a safe environment within the schools where the children are already comfortable, they add additional support to kids who need it most. These youth receive additional academic support, healthy living concepts and additional positive adult relationships.

We know that resources are tight all around and Foundations need to look carefully at every request for support. AzCASE is confident that partnering with Future for Kids will be a positive relationship and bring much needed services and support to the students in the PV School District.

If you have any additional questions, please feel free to reach out to me.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Courtney C. Sullivan".

Courtney C. Sullivan  
Executive Director. AzCASE

**Successful Children and Youth. Empowered Professionals. Effective Public Policy.**

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