

After-school programs are the best structures for the development of such programs, as well as other services needed in low-income communities. They can serve as pathways to developing strong, sustainable community schools.

We definitely are not utilizing them enough.

More than 77 percent of the 21st century community learning center funding goes to low-income youth. And with the changing new mix of technologies and competitive markets, our economy is increasing its demand for skilled labor and decreasing demand for unskilled or semi-skilled labor. This means we can use these centers to focus on expectations for the core school day and its relation to the changes.

This is important because for the first time in history, the Nation's economic and social well-being requires that all children be prepared for post-secondary education and career attainment.

Although our public education system was never designed to prepare our students for higher education, after school programs seek to provide vital opportunities for children and youth to learn and to prepare for college and careers in the new economy.

After-school programs achieve these goals by providing access to information technology and related learning services for children. This is especially critical because we have an opportunity to support an initiative that is really about local impact and local opportunity.

We must bring balance to our communities! Afterschool programs keep students occupied with productive activities during the hours they are most likely to get into trouble, from 2 to 8 pm.

We can support local and state efforts to sustain a much larger national community school movement than has ever been possible before. New research indicates that after-school programs can make a positive difference in student development and academic performance.

This is especially true for our low-income students. This initiative may be the greatest opportunity to help children at a critical point in their young lives.

I'm particularly supportive of this initiative because it means that children who need extra help will be able to receive more attention. For these reasons, Mr. Chairman, I urge members to support this amendment.

TRIBUTE TO MR. BERT M.  
CONCKLIN

HON. THOMAS M. DAVIS

OF VIRGINIA

HON. JAMES P. MORAN

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Friday, June 9, 2000*

Mr. DAVIS of Virginia. Mr. Speaker, I and my colleague rise to bring to your attention the contribution of a distinguished individual who is returning to government service.

Last month, Mr. Bert M. Concklin announced he was stepping down as president of the Professional Services Council, a national trade association that represents a very large number of our constituents, to return to federal government service. Bert will soon as-

sume the post of Business Systems Modernization Executive at the Internal Revenue Service.

We both know Bert well and are confident that he will be a tremendous asset to the agency. Bert has been a leader in the government-wide reform efforts over the past decade where he has brought his keen insights, strong determination, and balanced judgment to bear on one of the federal government's most difficult undertakings. It is because of this background, as well as his substantial achievements in the private sector, that we feel secure in our prediction that he will positively impact the agency's goals.

Aside from his service as a key advisor to federal agencies and Congress on tough issues, such as contracting reform and government-wide business process re-engineering, and in addition to his having held a number of high-level government positions. Bert has an impressive track record with some of our country's best-known corporate names, including PRC, McKinsey and Company, Computer Sciences Corporation, and General Electric. He also served as chairman of the Governor's Council on Information Management of Virginia. He served in the United States Air Force and graduated from the United States Naval Academy.

We are pleased to take this opportunity to recognize the valuable contributions of someone who has clearly demonstrated his passion for reform, government services, and bipartisan cooperation.