Spotlight: New York Edge
Lavern Mason-Howard of New York Edge

New York Edge (formerly Sports and Arts in Schools Foundation) is a nonprofit with the mission of helping bridge the opportunity gap among underserved students by providing programs designed to improve academic performance, health and wellness, self-confidence, character, and attitudes for success in life. Operating between 3 and 5 days each week for 36 weeks during the school year, they offer combined academic enrichment curricula including: literacy, STEAM, leadership, High School Today College Tomorrow (HSTCT) and Middle School Today High School Tomorrow (MSTHST) with sports and wellness, music, visual, and performing arts opportunities and trips to educational and cultural institutions. Following a nutritious snack period, these programs are designed to enhance the learning that takes place during school hours. New York Edge believes in the power of positive influence and working extremely hard to create an environment that is supportive, creative, and fun.

We spoke to Lavern Mason-Howard, Manager of Licensing and Training, about the work she does for the betterment of New York children, families, and communities. Lavern began working in the after school field in 2002, as an Administrative Director for a Center based CBO that offered both early childhood education and school-age child care services. She was accountable for supervising the school-age child care staff and ensuring compliance with all City and State guidelines, regulations, and laws. Later on in 2008, Lavern served as Education and Training Director for a different CBO. There, she was responsible for staff development, supervision, and evaluation of several after school programs. Lavern started her current position with New York Edge in 2013.

When asked why she began a career in this field Lavern told us, “the primary reason for my decision to pursue a career in out-of-school time was my wanting to be more available for my children when they were growing up.” Earlier Lavern had felt as though she was spending too much time on commuting to work and wanted to give more time to her children. When she changed careers she first
began substitute teaching, as she was always interested in education. Lavern stated that, “the work was so fulfilling to me that I constantly wanted to learn more about the field.” In order to do so Lavern attended various training and development workshops, attaining Family Development Leadership Credentials, becoming a Child Abuse Identification and Reporting Trainer, a CPR and First Aid Instructor, and ultimately obtaining a Master of Arts Degree in Education, with a concentration in Educational Leadership and Technology.

In her current role she is responsible for overseeing licensing for over one hundred and twenty programs throughout New York City, ensuring that each program’s SACC license is maintained so that the programs operate in compliance with Department of Health Regulations. She is also responsible for developing, scheduling, and conducting training workshops and information sessions for staff development. Lavern has also implemented an Internship Program for the past three years in which career readiness opportunities are provided for High School and College aged students.

Lavern discussed with us how afterschool, summer, and expanded learning time is important to children, families, and the community. She had a great deal of positive things to say about afterschool and expanded learning for children. For example, it is important as children have a place to go that is safe and they are provided with educational services while also being able to have fun and engage in experiences that they might not have the opportunity to do without the services. This includes being introduced to a variety of activities such as chess, robotics, arts, and sports and getting the opportunity to go on many trips and visit various exciting educational and cultural sites throughout the city. After school programs also prepare kids for life, by developing their life skills, i.e., learning to work cooperatively, and social and emotional development. Essentially, out-of-school time programs help families by providing a structured resource for children now as well as putting them on a path that will help them move forward in the future and this in turn benefits the community.

When asked what her favorite part of her job is Lavern said, “being able to help people have that light bulb moment, when they truly get how it all relates.” Lavern added that there is so much cause and effect in the field of out-of-school time, and oftentimes, people don’t see the correlations of how it all works together. She adds that it is important to her that people understand the “whys;” like why ratios have to be met; why training is important; why safety protocols have to be followed. It all boils down to the children, and keeping them safe which is key in order for them to continue having great experiences in programs. Once the program is operating compliantly, then other “bells and whistles”; activities, special events, incentives, and enhancement can effectively be added to the program.

**Register for the 2018 Rochester Regional Training Institute!**

*Saturday, November 10, 2018*

*Radisson Hotel Rochester Airport 175 Jefferson Rd, Rochester, NY 14623*
Take advantage of the Early Bird Rate until September 30!
Register Now

High-Quality Professional Development

- Six OCFS training hours
- Variety of topics
- Appropriate for supervisors, teachers, and frontline staff working with school-age children
- Networking opportunities
- Buffet lunch

For More Information:
Visit our Regional Institute Webpage

Scholarships
Scholarship funding to participate in this training may be available through the Educational Incentive Program (EIP). For more information or to apply for a scholarship, please visit www.ecetp.pdp.albany.edu. You may also contact EIP at eip@albany.edu or 800-295-9616. If you have received an EIP, please sign it and mail it to the Network along with your registration.

For any questions or to register via check or EIP, please contact Erin@networkforyouthsuccess.org.

Now Accepting Proposals for the 2019 Annual Conference!
Friday, May 10, 2019 to Saturday, May 11, 2018
Saratoga Embassy Suites in Saratoga Springs, NY

This event brings in over 200 afterschool professionals (administrators, directors, teachers, and frontline staff) from across the state. We are accepting proposals in the following topics, but are open to new and innovative ideas.

- Diversity and Inclusion
- Social and Emotional Learning
- Science, Technology, Engineering, Art, and Mathematics (STEAM)
- Guiding Children's Behaviors
- Program Sustainability
- Program Quality Improvement
- Leadership Development for Professionals
- Family Engagement
- Trauma-Informed Care
- Arts
- Self-Care

Submit Your Proposal Today!
All submissions are due by October 24, 2018. Selected presenters will be notified by November 30, 2018. Accepted presenters also receive free admission to the conference on the day of their presentation.

Feel free to share this email with your colleagues and friends!

The link to the RFP:

More information on the event:
http://networkforyouthsuccess.org/annual-conference/

To register as a participant:
Registration will begin in December!

If you have any questions, please contact Erin@networkforyouthsuccess.org.

How does your afterschool program make a difference in the lives of young people?
Tell Us How!

The Ralph C. Wilson, Jr. Foundation is interested in learning more about afterschool programs in your area to better inform its grant-making. The foundation has asked Grand Valley State University to conduct a survey of afterschool programs to better understand the afterschool landscape and where funding is most needed. Can you help? Taking the survey is easy and will only take about 15 minutes of your time!

What kinds of questions will be asked?

- What geography is served by your program(s)?
- Who are the youth your program(s) reaches?
- What is special and unique about the youth you currently serve?
- When are your programs offered?
- What are the activities and outcomes of your program(s)? What aspects of your work need more support?

What can I do to make sure my organization is included?
Please schedule your interview today by following this link! Your work is important, and we want your afterschool programs to be included!

Questions? Want a copy of the results?
Contact Dr. Aaron Van Oosterhout, Research Manager, at (616) 331-9030 or vanoosaa@gvsu.edu.

Thank you in advance for your help!

Interested in advancing in the school-age field?
Need the qualifications to become a Site Director?

EARN YOUR SCHOOL-AGE CREDENTIAL TODAY

Click here for the link

Upcoming Events

9/6: Lights On Afterschool Webinar
Whether this is your first Lights On Afterschool or your 19th, this webinar will go over everything you need to help stay on track with your planning for this year's celebration. Learn about steps you can take now to help build champions for afterschool in your community, and learn more about what you can do to make sure community leaders and policy makers see firsthand how afterschool is working for kids and families in your community. Click here for more information and how to register.

9/11-12/18: Distance Learning SAC Credential I Prep Course
The Network offers an alternative way to gain and document skills to earn your **SAC Credential** if you don’t live near a Host Agency that offers face-to-face classes. SACC Prep I covers Skill Areas 1-7 and helps you prepare your Portfolio and Resource File as well as share, discuss, and learn from colleagues throughout the state about the value, purpose, and process of your work. For more information and to apply for the course, go to: [http://networkforyouthsuccess.org/credential/distance-learning/](http://networkforyouthsuccess.org/credential/distance-learning/)

**9/16: MomUp! Raising Kids Who Code, Troy NY**
MomUp! is a fun, two hour interactive workshop for moms who want to help their kids navigate the world of programming, technology careers and pathways. Software is the interface through which so much of life happens: communicating, planning, banking, research, shopping, healthcare, insurance, the DMV. If we raise our kids to be code-literate, we set them up for a future in which they can be makers, not just users, of software. Being code-literate opens doors for artists, musicians, social scientists, entrepreneurs, engineers - accountants, lawyers, doctors. For more information and how to register visit [here](#).

**9/18: Get in the Game! Successful Intervention Strategies for Serving WIOA Youth**
September’s webinar will highlight two intervention strategies – Integrated Resource Teams (IRT) and Reverse Career Fairs, and how they can be used to successfully serve youth with barriers to employment. Reverse Career Fairs are an opportunity for job seeking youth to develop materials, displays and presentations for booths at the fair. Then, it is the businesses who move between the booths to learn about the strengths and skills of the job candidates. For information on how to register go to [https://dews.webex.com](https://dews.webex.com)

An important outcome for maker education is helping more students find meaningful, productive work. At this year’s Education Forum at World Maker Faire NY, they look at how maker educators can help students navigate the future of work—a future that places a premium on curiosity and innovation. Click [here](#) for more information and how to register.

**9/21: Supervisors Series: Effective Supervision**
The session focuses on supervision and the importance of having clear and consistent policies, solid systems for ongoing supervision and plans for the development of staff. Participants will learn about effective staff assessment and evaluation and will begin to develop or refine their systems for ongoing staff supervision and development. The workshop is from 10am-1pm. Registration opens on Tuesday, September 4 at 9:30 am. Click [here](#) for more information, how to register, and a full list of events.

**9/22: 2018 Long Island Training Institute**
Join the Network for Youth Success for a day of training! Earn 6 training hours across four topics! Lunch will be provided. This training is recommended for front-line staff in afterschool, summer, and expanded learning settings and will be held at the Child Care Council of Nassau. Visit our website for more details.

**9/26: New York State SAC Credential Classes Begin, Capital Region**
The Network, in partnership with the Capital District YMCA, will be offering **SAC Credential** classes this fall. Classes will be held at the North Albany YMCA on Wednesday nights from 6:30-9:30 PM. For more information, please contact: Alicia Salamone-Powers [asalamonepowers@cdymca.org](mailto:asalamonepowers@cdymca.org) 518.463.9622 x 1320.

**9/27: Foundational Series for Line Staff: Introduction to Child and Youth Development**
In this Partnership for After School Education foundational workshop, participants will learn about the stages of child and youth development to gain a broader understanding of the needs of children and youth. Participants will also engage in activities that support the healthy development of children and youth and will learn how to plan and integrate activities that support various developmental levels and
stages. The workshop is from 10am-1pm. Registration opens on Monday, September 10 at 9:00 am. Click here for more information, how to register, and a full list of events.

10/11: Foundational Series for Line Staff: Supporting Good Nutrition
In this Partnership for After School Education workshop, participants will review nutrition principles and discuss current eating behaviors, physical activities and lifestyle trends that impact children’s health. Participants will explore ways to balance food options, make healthy choices with limited resources, and encourage and model healthy behavior to youth and their families. Participants will also learn activities to teach children about healthy eating. The workshop is from 10am-1pm. Registration opens on Monday, September 10 at 9:00 am. Click here for more information, how to register, and a full list of events.

10/16 and 10/17: The ECMHC Crisis of Confidence
This live webinar series is designed to support those providing early childhood mental health consultation. A crisis of confidence happens in situations in which we have stopped believing that someone or something can work (is good). The work of an ECMHC can be as heartbreaking as it is rewarding. It is imperative that ECMHCs take time to pause and reflect on the emotionally intense nature of this work and the toll it takes on our confidence. Join seasoned ECMHC, Rachel Wagner, to do just that. To register click here.

10/17-10/19: Community Schools Fundamentals Conference, New York City, NY
Children’s Aid National Center for Community Schools presents the Community Schools Fundamentals Conference, a three-day seminar designed specifically for those new or relatively new to community schools. The Fundamentals Conference will share CA’s lessons learned from over 25 years of implementation in New York City and capacity building across the country and beyond. In addition to conducting a study visit to a CA community school, participants will learn about the foundations and the "nuts and bolts" of the strategy. For more information and to register, follow this link!

10/23 and 10/30: Building Your Bounce Professional Development Learning Series
This train-the-trainer live webinar series provides participants with a copy of the Building Your Bounce Professional Development Learning Series that can be used to promote staff wellness in a variety of professional development events including staff meetings and in-service trainings. Join Nefertiti and learn how you can create an overall culture of resilience. To register click here.

10/24: Foundational Series for Line Staff: Child Abuse Identification and Prevention
Participants in this Partnership for After School Education workshop will learn physical and behavioral indicators of child abuse and maltreatment. Participants will learn when and how a report must be made, actions the reporter is mandated to take, legal protections afforded reporters and consequences for failing to report. The workshop is from 10am-1pm. Registration opens on Monday, October 8 at 9:00 am. Click here for more information, how to register, and a full list of events.

10/25: Lights On Afterschool, Nationwide
One million Americans will celebrate afterschool programs at 8,000 events nationwide. It's time for Lights On Afterschool! Registration for the 19th annual nationwide rally for afterschool is open. Thursday, October 25, 2018 is a golden opportunity to make sure parents, policymakers, and communities understand the impact of afterschool programs in keeping kids safe, inspiring them to learn, and giving families peace of mind. The event planning kit has all the tools you need to help generate press coverage, excite the community, and inspire policymakers to invest in afterschool. Register today!

10/25-10/26: 48th Annual Youth Development Training Conference, Tarrytown, NY
The Association of Youth Bureaus and The Coalition for Homeless Youth invite youth professionals to attend their Annual Youth Development Training Conference. The training conference will focus on
issues and initiatives supporting positive youth development, runaway and homeless youth, and afterschool programs and services. The conference offers colleagues the opportunity to share best/promising practices, learn skill sets to assist youth in achieving their goals, and hear updates on federal, state, and local issues and initiatives impacting the youth development field. More information can be found here.

10/26-10/28: 2018 NAMI-NYS Educational Conference
The conference will feature national leaders in mental health research, treatment, service delivery and advocacy who will provide attendees with the tools needed to understand how the treatment of psychiatric disorders is moving forward. Key topics disseminated at the conference will include identifying various types of community-based mental health services, the importance of family engagement in recovery, how to communicate the need for treatment to people who refuse treatment or don’t recognize their illness, suicide prevention strategies, how NAMI-NYS can serve as community partners as well explore key advocacy issues such as mental health housing and insurance parity. To register follow this link.

11/1: Foundational Series for Line Staff: Creating Physically Safe Spaces
In this Partnership for After School Education workshop, participants will learn how to spot safety hazards and make appropriate changes to keep youth safe. Participants will also understand safety procedures for indoor and outdoor environments, such as fire drills, evacuations, field trips and travel, and inter-agency communication; and gain a better understanding of effective communication and emergency response systems with program stakeholders, including parents, agency headquarters, and if school-based, designated building administrators. Participants will review School Age Child Care (SACC) regulations related to safety and understand what their site’s safety plan should include. The workshop is from 10am-1pm. Registration opens on Monday, October 15 at 9:00 am. Click here for more information, how to register, and a full list of events.

11/1 and 11/8: Optimize Your Use of the DECA-C (Clinical)
This live webinar series highlights the DECA-C (Clinical): a standardized, norm-referenced behavior rating scale that evaluates behaviors related to social and emotional resilience and concerns in preschool children ages 2 through 5. It is designed to support early intervention efforts to reduce or eliminate significant emotional and behavioral concerns in preschool children. This webinar will focus on using the DECA-C as part of the DECA Program as well as its use as a stand alone tool. To register click here.

11/8: Foundational Series for Line Staff: Conflict Resolution
This Partnership for After School Education workshop will cover the basics of conflict resolution and effective communication. By exploring the roots of conflict, participants will gain new strategies not only for dealing positively with conflict, but also for helping children and youth manage conflicts. Participants will have the opportunity to practice conflict mediation skills through role-plays and active listening. The workshop is from 10am-1pm. Registration opens on Monday, October 22 at 9:00 am. Click here for more information, how to register, and a full list of events.

11/10: Rochester Training Institute, Rochester
Our Rochester Training Institute is returning and will take place Saturday, November 10th, 2018. Take advantage of the Early Bird Rate until September 30! Register Now! High-Quality Professional
Development: six OCFS training hours, variety of topics, appropriate for supervisors, teachers, and frontline staff working with school-age children, networking opportunities, and a buffet lunch! For more information, please click here!

11/12-11/14: Summer Changes Everything, Missouri
Join hundreds of summer learning and expanded opportunity leaders on November 12-14 in Kansas City, MO for National Summer Learning Association’s annual conference devoted entirely to summer learning. What to expect? The nation’s top summer time leaders from across the country sharing and discussing effective learning approaches, systems building, program planning, policies, and ways to advocate for our nation's children. More information and registration can be found here!

3/5-3/18: National AfterSchool Association Convention, New York, New York
Join our community for four days of networking, learning, and inspiration. For more information follow this link.

3/16: Terra Science and Engineering Fair
Whether you want to explore Cassini’s adventures around Saturn, test water quality in a local creek, or design an app to prep for your next exam, the Terra Northeast Regional Science & Engineering Fair (TNRSEF) enables you to ask questions and find answers! Students in grades 6-12 can come to SUNY Geneseo in March to celebrate all s/he has learned and perhaps even earn an award. More information can be found here.

5/10-5/11: Network for Youth Success Annual Conference, Saratoga Springs
Save the Date! Back by popular demand for one more year in Saratoga Springs! Click here for more information!