We spoke to Crystal Alesio, the President and Founder of Community Miracles in Action, Inc., a teen center that provides youth access to science, technology, engineering, arts, and mathematics programming. Before devoting her time to CMA, Crystal facilitated various programs that supported youth and families in achieving their maximum potential, in both the not-for-profit and government sector. A graduate with a degree in Human Services from SUNY’s Empire State College, Crystal also holds the New York State School Age Care Credential and serves as a School Age Care Credential Endorser throughout the state. Crystal has made a lifelong commitment to creating opportunities for young adults. She realizes as a leader and a professional, investing in our youth is an investment in the future of our communities.

Crystal began working in the afterschool, summer, and expanded learning time field in 2001 as a part-time afterschool program Group Leader. Over the past 17 years she has engaged the many facets of afterschool, summer, and expanded learning time programming. Crystal managed a series of before and afterschool programs, as well as multiple summer camps. Additionally, she was appointed as the Recreation, Youth Bureau, and Human Services Director for a small city. Within any position she has held, Crystal participated in ‘on the ground’ programming with youth ages 4-18 and their families, supervised and trained employees, and developed innovative curriculum and programs.

Crystal told us that, “from the onset of my career I have been on the front line providing opportunities to youth and families.” Even as a young professional, the more youth she met, the more Crystal recognized the level of investment it takes in a young person’s life to set them up for success. Crystal started Community Miracles in Action as she recognized that outside of school, there was nowhere for the youth in my community to go for free to have access to the type of programming CMA offers. As a community member and longtime provider, Crystal knew it was time to find a way to fill the gap.

Community Miracles in Action provides drop in programming for youth grades 6-12, year-round. CMA’s highlighted activities including robotics, electronics and circuitry, writing, poetry and bookmaking, homework help and test prep, gardening and growing, music and DJing workshops, and recycled and up-cycled art.

Crystal stated that afterschool programs provide youth a safe place to go where they have access to competent mentors, educational support, as well as the guidance to develop critical social skills to carry in to adulthood. Furthermore, as a lifelong Capital Region resident, Crystal aims to focus on retention, giving the next generations reasons to raise their families and invest in careers in the Capital Region. By supporting youth in achieving their maximum potential, with a focus on local professional and educational opportunities, Crystal believes this will help stem the exodus of the local talent. The skills that youth gain from out of school time community-based programs creates young professionals, strengthening our home communities.

When asked what her favorite part of her job was Crystal told us, “without a doubt working with CMA’s Street Team.” Crystal asserts that CMA was created for teens, which makes their voice the most important of them all, and that the Street Team members are the real decision makers at CMA. As a group, the team, students ages 12-18, helps develop new programs, recruits new CMA members, and guides the CMA Board of Directors in their decision making. Two Street Team members even sit on the CMA Board of Directors as voting members. Crystal believes showing our youth that they have
the support to make their own decisions, and that our communities believe in and will support their initiatives, ignites an immeasurable impact.

Power of 3:00 Ambassadors Program Launches Second Cohort

The Network for Youth Success welcomed its second cohort of Power of 3:00 Ambassadors for a kick off training in Albany on September 14th - 15th. The 10 Ambassadors from across the state were selected from the many applicants for this year's program. Day one kicked off the event with a guided tour of the state Capitol followed by a networking reception generously sponsored by TD Bank. Day two of the event included training on policy and advocacy, engaging youth and families in advocacy, and making the most of Lights On Afterschool. Jessica Klos Shapiro of the Early Care and Learning Council and Jamaica Miles of Citizen Action joined the Network staff to facilitate the trainings.

Gretchen Smith, a 2018-19 Power of 3:00 Ambassador from the Greater Rochester Summer Learning Association, said, "The Power of 3:00 Ambassador's program has helped me to start brainstorming ways my agency can advocate for the needs of the students we serve. It was great to meet providers and advocates from across the state who share a similar passion for keeping kids safe, engaged, and excited about learning outside of the traditional school day."

Jimmy Bulmer, a 2017-18 Power of 3:00 Ambassador from the Boys & Girls Clubs of Albany, joined for the kick off reception to welcome the new cohort of Ambassadors. He said, "It was exciting to meet both new and veteran leaders in the expanded learning field to pass on the advocacy torch. After meeting these passionate individuals, I am confident that the program is in great hands and look forward to the collective impact that they will have across New York State."

This event was just the beginning of a year long program through which the Power of 3:00 Ambassadors will continue to receive technical assistance, host their own local events, and support the Network's Advocacy Day on January 23rd. To learn more about the Ambassadors, read their biographies here. To get involved in the Network's advocacy efforts, sign up for the Power of 3:00 listserv. If you have any questions about the program, please reach out to Alli Lidie.
NAA Seeks Next Generation of AfterSchool Leaders

Do you know someone under the age of 30 who is an afterschool champion and a believer in the power of afterschool?

NAA is looking to honor these individuals for the Next Generation of AfterSchool Leaders 2019!

They're specifically looking for individuals who:

- Are active in the afterschool community, including but not limited to NAA and its state affiliates.
- Demonstrate the NAA Core Competencies.
- Posses passion for their work as an afterschool leader; have a clear purpose in their efforts to support their program and their peers; and show persistence in their work to grow as a leader in the field of afterschool!

LEARN MORE & NOMINATE A LEADER

Those selected will be featured in the Winter 2019 issue of AfterSchool Today magazine. They will also receive a free NAA Executive Membership, free 2019 Annual Convention Registration and recognition at the 2019 Convention!

Nominations will be accepted through October 18, 2018.

Register for the 2018 Rochester Regional Training Institute!

Saturday, November 10, 2018
Radisson Hotel Rochester Airport 175 Jefferson Rd, Rochester, NY 14623

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, 2019
Saratoga Embassy Suites in Saratoga Springs, NY

This event brings in over 200 afterschool professionals (administrators, executive directors, directors, teachers, and frontline staff) from across the state. We are accepting proposals in the following topics, but are also open to new and innovative ideas. The workshops are either 90 minutes or 30 minutes.

- 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
- Movement

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 RFP 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?

How do I Participate?
Please take our survey at bit.ly/AfterschoolProgramSurvey. 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!
Upcoming Events

10/10: Aperture Edu- Session 3: Key Indicators & Their Connections to SEL
Students that have a need for social-emotional instruction are 4.5x more likely to have a severe infraction this year. Aperture Education knows this is alarming, so the third session covers how social-emotional competence links to infractions as well as other key indicators like academic achievement and income-achievement gaps. Early Indicators and a proactive approach to addressing SEL skills can have lasting results in your buildings. Topics covered include: Universal Screening, Reducing Infractions and Referrals, Proactive Skill Building, High Quality Data. To register, click here!

10/11: Youth Resource Fair
The New York State Office of Children and Family Services and Hudson Valley Community College are teaming up to support youth in care and promote their success. They are hosting a Youth Resource Fair to raise awareness among youth and their families of what supportive programs and resources there are and how to access them. Vendors will provide information and insights on child welfare system topics ranging from employment and career development to education, financial literacy, health and wellness, LGBTQ issues, mentoring, youth leadership, and voice and life skills. Don’t miss this exciting opportunity to connect youth and young adults to vital programs and resources! Location and Time: Campus Center, Hudson Valley Community College, 80 Vandenburgh Ave Troy, NY 12180, 12:00 PM - 6:00 PM

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 in NYC. Registration opens on Monday, September 24 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
10/18: Family Child Care for School-Age Children- Exploring Quality and Access
A Webinar From the National Center on Afterschool and Summer Enrichment from 3:00 – 4:30 pm (Eastern Daylight Time). Family child care (FCC) is an important option for families of children across the age continuum, including school-age children. Families may choose family child care as a home-setting, neighborhood-based option that can serve all siblings over time. Additional reasons may include the linguistic and cultural background of the family or a need for nontraditional-hour care. The webinar includes: sharing promising practices for state systems-building that can strengthen the quality of FCC experiences for school-age children, exploring strategies, challenges, and solutions for FCC supply-building efforts for school-age children, and reviewing strategies and challenges identified by providers for supporting school-age children in mixed-age groups. Select this Web link to register for the webinar. For questions contact the National Center on Afterschool and Summer Enrichment (NCASE) team at ncase@ecetta.info.

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: Immigrant Students in the College Process Workshop from Options Institute
Undocumented students, permanent residents, refugees, and asylees all face different challenges in applying to, getting in to, and paying for college. Guided by both legal and college access professionals, participants examine strategies and resources to help immigrant students through the college application and financial aid processes. Key topics include identifying and understanding immigration status, adjustment of immigration status, impact of residency status on college admission and financial aid, and counseling undocumented students and students with undocumented parents through the college process. Presentered in collaboration with a Legal Aid Society attorney on Tuesday, October 23 from 9- 4PM at 352 West 110 Street. Register here.

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 in NYC. 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: Town Hall Meeting: Examining the Business Side of Child Care
During this unique training, attorney and child care business expert Tom Copeland, and OCFS regulations expert Mark DeCicco, analyze case studies and highlight regulatory red flags with professionals from the child care community. At your site, you’ll dissect the case studies and discuss your findings with your group. Then all participants around the state will tune in to hear what the experts Mr. Copeland and Mr. DeCicco have to say about the case studies and what you can do to avoid similar risky situations. The webcast is going to be packed with valuable information that will help fulfill the business maintenance responsibilities of your program. You’re not going to want to miss out, so register today! Visit the website www.ecettapdf.albany.edu and click “Sign Up for Webcast Training.”

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 a community partner, as well as explore key advocacy issues such as mental health housing and insurance parity. To register, follow this link.

Located at Borough of Manhattan Community College, this year's theme is "Putting Authenticity into Practice." The centerpiece is hands-on professional development to help educators bring authenticity-focused social emotional learning (SEL) into their classrooms, schools, and communities. The conference also features plenaries, networking events, poster sessions, presentations, and a screening and discussion of the documentary, Won't You Be My Neighbor? New York State educators can receive up to 16 CTLE credits by attending the conference. A limited number of guest registrations is available. Email skrauss@childrensartsguild.org for registration information. You can also find more information by downloading this flyer.

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 9:00am-1:00pm in NYC. 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 9:00am-1:00pm in NYC. 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! This includes High-Quality Professional Development; six OCFS training hours; a variety of topics, and is 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!

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