JoAnna Rozier-Johnson, Founder of JoRo Organizing, has been working with children since her first official job as a camp counselor. She was a volleyball and badminton counselor and says she loved all four summers of it! Her next position was as a Health Care Aide and Coach at her high school alma mater and a part-time literacy tutor at the agency she is still with. JoAnna said that she decided to pursue a career in the afterschool, summer, and expanded learning time field as she was searching for her purpose in life.

A turn of events had her walking away from her former dreams and finding a breakthrough in the midst of depression by working and volunteering with children. JoAnna says that she connected well with youth and realized that areas which were usually difficult for others working with children came with ease to her. Then every time JoAnna went to look for a new career, opportunities for promotion working in education kept being presented to her. She says that, "The lightbulb finally came on...I finally recognized that I was created to positively impact the lives of children and to coach adults to be less stressed and productive when working with our future leaders."

Now, all of JoAnna’s professional and volunteer efforts are connected to positive youth development. She is the Director of Youth Services for the Community Action Organization of WNY, Inc, responsible for a team of over seventy professionals running eight afterschool and summer camp sites for more than six hundred youth in Western New York. JoAnna’s most cherished dedication of her time is has been on Fridays and Saturdays for the last 10 years, volunteering as the Assistant Director and Drill Instructor for the Crusaders Marching Unit of Buffalo, NY. This group, created in 1974 to serve inner city youth, was a team JoAnna was a member of herself for seven years before aging out the program. This group serves children ages 5-18 as a performing art, which stimulates children’s creativity while instilling discipline. Two other initiatives JoAnna has dedicated her time to are working in and leading programming for teens in programs sponsored by her sorority, Delta Sigma Theta Sorority, and providing interactive professional developments via her private business, JoRo Organizing.

JoAnna expressed that a spectrum of expanded learning time activities benefit our students and indirectly affect our communities. She quoted Frederick Douglass stating, "It is easier to build strong children than to repair broken men." Adding that every student in their programs has the potential to
become the next success story of an afterschool initiative on a large scale or just by simply refraining from negativity. JoAnna asserted that history has shown us that one person’s bad decisions can cause a great hurt to a community. In turn, "one child who was exposed to outlets which expand their reality of possibilities, redirects their aggression, and exposes them to their natural talents creates our next generation of scientists, artists, and educators to help heal our communities."

Finally, when asked what her favorite part of her job is JoAnna stated, "My favorite part of my job is when children and professionals show that something I taught them ‘stuck with them’ and made a positive difference in their actions or mindset."

**WHAT MAKES A STEM LESSON GREAT?**

STEM education was created so students would be prepared for the 21st-century workforce—and even for jobs that don’t yet exist.

With advancements in technology happening at a time-warp rate of speed, STEM curricula and lessons need features that apply current technology to how all students—including elementary, middle, and junior high school—are already learning in science, engineering, and math.

So how should STEM lessons be structured to create the best real-world outcomes? Here’s a quick checklist to consider for great K-8 STEM learning:

- STEM activities are hands-on and tangible.
- The Engineering Design Process (EDP) is instituted in the STEM curriculum.
- Teamwork and collaboration are woven through all aspects of STEM learning.
- Real-world problems, issues or matters are part of the STEM learning process—and solutions may or may not be found. There may be several answers to the task at hand, and failure is acceptable. Discussion and hypothesis opportunities are ever-present.

Whether you're seeking STEM curricula or creating it, the aforementioned should be criteria you adhere to make STEM GR8!

*Courtesy of Jeff Golner, President/CEO of STEM Sports®. STEM Sports® provides curriculum for elementary and middle school-aged students that combines STEM education with a variety of sports. Photos courtesy of STEM Sports.*

**National Survey on SEL in Afterschool**

The National AfterSchool Association invites you to participate in an online survey that will help them learn about your experience with and opinions about social-emotional learning (SEL) in your before/afterschool program(s).

This research is being conducted by Interactive Educational Systems Design (IESD), an independent, education-focused research institution, on behalf of developers of SEL resources. This is a great opportunity to contribute to the overall understanding of SEL trends in before/afterschool programs throughout the U.S. that will support the development of valuable SEL resources.
To show appreciation for your help, the National AfterSchool Association will give you the chance to win one of two $400 cash awards - for you or your organization, depending on your organization’s rules and regulations - if you complete the survey by October 30, 2018.

This survey will take about 10 minutes to complete. Click here to take the survey!

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, 2018
Saratoga Embassy Suites in Saratoga Springs, NY

All submissions are due by November 2, 2018.

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.

- Fine Arts
- Drama
- Physical Activity/Movement
- Diversity and Inclusion
- Science, Technology, Engineering, Art, and Mathematics (STEAM)
- Guiding Children’s Behaviors
- Program Sustainability
- Program Quality Improvement
- Leadership Development for Professionals
- Family Engagement

Submit Your Proposal Today!

Selected presenters will be notified by November 30, 2018. Accepted presenters also receive free admission to the conference on the day of their presentation.
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!

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

EARN YOUR SCHOOL-AGE CREDENTIAL TODAY

Upcoming Events

10/30: After the School Bell Webinar Series: Mobilizing a Statewide Coalition and Getting a Win
Join Norma Rodriguez, Organizing and Policy Director, and Geordee Mae Corpuz, Organizing Director with Californians for Justice, along with John Affeldt, Managing Attorney at Public Advocates, for the Coalition for Community School’s webinar: After the School Bell Webinar Series: Mobilizing a Statewide Coalition and Getting a Win. During this webinar, learn from their victory to secure $13 million in state funding for community engagement activities and their strategies that helped them secure this win. Click here to register.
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 in NYC. 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.

11/6 – 12/18: ACRES of Questions
Try out the ACRES reflective coaching experience with this foundational short workshop series, which includes Purposeful Questions module with two opportunities to reflect on using questions in practice. This series includes one lesson and 2 coaching session and meets 10 AM - 12 PM on Tuesdays. Use this link for specific dates and to register.

11/7 – 2/20: Developing STEM Practices & Mindset
Increase your skills facilitating opportunities for youth to use the science and engineering practices to develop a STEM mindset. This ACRES series includes 3 modules: Asking Purposeful Questions, Modeling the Science Process, and Modeling the Engineering Design Process. The group will meet for a lesson and coaching session for each module at 10 AM - 12 PM on Wednesdays from November 7 to February 20, 2019. Use this link for specific dates and to register.

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 in NYC. Click here for more information, how to register, and a full list of events.

11/14: PASE Explorers: Exploring and Sharing Your Community Story through Projects and Technology
Looking for inspiration for your program? PASE Explorers is a great way to expand your programming and offer something new and fun for upper elementary youth. Learn how to implement PASE Explorers in your program. PASE's project-based global learning curriculum combines community exploration with a final technology project, including an introduction to a free online web design program. Participants will receive an updated curriculum and will be guided through the components of the program. Follow-up coaching from PASE will be made available. Registration opens on Monday, November 12 at 9:00 am. Click here for more information and how to register.

11/10: Rochester Training Institute, Rochester
Our Rochester Training Institute is returning and will take place Saturday, November 10th, 2018. 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!

11/28 - Introduction to Child and Youth Development
In this foundational workshop from PASE, 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