SACC Spotlight & Civic Engagement!

January 2019

Spotlight
SAC Credential Candidate Elizabeth Jones

We spoke to SAC Credential Candidate Elizabeth Jones, Site Director at the Eagle Point YMCA, about her experience with the SAC learning course.

The SAC Credential course can be taken as a distance or face-to-face learning course. Elizabeth said she was able to do the face-to-face course “in a classroom setting with really nice, funny, and down to earth people who have the same passion” as she does. When asked what she learned from the course Elizabeth told us, “I learned in order to provide the best quality of care to all students and participants I have in my care, I must be fully committed and willing to continuously learn and stay educated. I also learned how important it is to follow NYS regulations [and policies] which are designed and changed when needed to help keep students and providers safe and fully prepared at site and offsite. It helps me be better at what I love doing.”

Elizabeth also stated that the course impacts the families she serves in a positive manner. She explained that, “because of the guidance I received from my educators, I have grown more confident and know how to approach all situations involving my families whether they are positive or negative.” She added that, “parents give good feedback and have a great relationship with me and my team...Even when they may be upset about things, they always say thank you for taking time out to talk. This shows they appreciate and care enough to express those feelings in a positive way to a negative situation.”

When asked what her favorite part of the SAC course was, Elizabeth said that it “has to be when the class worked together on a lot of projects and got to see and feel the excitement the students would feel while at program when all elements of a lesson plan are well put together...I have also enjoyed learning from my fellow classmates because they give you insight on things you may have been doing [that didn't work] and may work if done differently.”

Elizabeth’s positive comments of the course were followed with her urging that she “would totally recommend the SAC credential course to anyone who is passionate enough to give more to those who can learn from you, because you see how important every aspect of your time with children matters and counts when you think is does not.”

Promoting Civic Engagement Through Afterschool
Programs

This report from the Afterschool Alliance and the Center for Global Education at Asia Society discusses how afterschool programs can strengthen student civic engagement by providing students with valuable hands-on experiences that help them become informed, involved, and conscientious individuals.

"Americans have a strong conviction for the ideal of democracy. According to a bipartisan report commissioned by the George W. Bush Institute, the Penn Biden Center for Diplomacy and Global Engagement, and the Freedom House, 5 in 6 Americans believe that it is “important to live in a democracy.” However, the data linked to indicators of a healthy democracy paint a different picture.

For example, the U.S. ranks 26th in voter turnout among the 36 democracies that make up the Organisation for Economic Cooperation and Development (OECD), and only 1 in 4 Americans is able to name all three branches of government. Civic engagement starts with our nation’s young people, since engagement in adolescence increases the likelihood of engagement in adulthood.

As 3 in 4 superintendents agree that preparing students for engaged citizenship is a challenge for their district, it is important to recognize that afterschool and summer learning programs are critical partners in the work toward creating an informed public that has knowledge of democratic institutions and processes and opportunities to apply lessons learned.

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OCFS Facility Application and Management System

The Office of Children and Family Services (OCFS) will be launching the Facility Application and Management System (FAMS). FAMS is a secure, automated process that will first be available to all NEW Day Care Center (DCC) and School-Age Child Care (SACC) applicants to complete and submit their initial application for a child care license/registration online. This technology will modernize and streamline the application/licensing process.

Check out this video to learn more.

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

EARN YOUR SCHOOL-AGE CREDENTIAL TODAY
Upcoming Events

1/8 – 4/23: Supporting Youth Development through STEM
Increase your skills using positive youth development practices to engage youth in meaningful STEM learning experiences. This ACRES series includes 3 modules: Developing STEM Identities and Making Career Connections, Giving Youth Voice and Choice, and Exploring Youth Understanding in STEM. The group will meet for a lesson and coaching session for each module at 10 AM - 12 PM on Tuesdays from January 8 to April 23, 2019. Use this link for specific dates and to register.

1/23: Advocacy Day, Albany, NY
The Network for Youth Success will be hosting our Annual Advocay Day on January 23, 2019! Program providers, students, parents, and other supporters of afterschool, summer, and expanded learning programs are encouraged to join us in Albany, NY to meet New York State Assemblymembers and Senators to advocate for New York's children and families. Click here to register!

1/26 and 3/16: CryptoClub Training in Schenectady
CryptoClub is a 12-20 activity curriculum that uses message encryption and decryption to explore applied mathematical concepts. This two-day training session features hands-on experiences with ciphers and codes, starting with pen-and-paper and moving on to using a computer. Participants will walk away with materials to start their own CryptoClub, including teacher's manual and workbooks for 15 students. This training is for educators in the middle grades (4th through 9th) who serve at least 15 students. Cost is $794 total (covers both days of training). For more information about CryptoClub, visit the University of Chicago's page for CryptoClub. To register, click here. You can also email Timothy Fowler (timothy@networkforyouthsuccess.org) with "CryptoClub in Schenectady" in the subject line if you have questions.

1/28: Community Schools Advocacy Day
Join the New York State Community Schools Network as they host their 4th annual statewide advocacy day in Albany on Monday January 28, 2019. The event is to advocate for the New York State Community Schools Network’s FY20 Budget Priorities and inform the state legislature on the community schools strategy by highlighting local efforts and stories of impact across the state. Registration can be found here.

1/29 -1/31: 21st Global Youth Justice Training, Las Vegas, NV
These rapidly expanding local volunteer-driven diversion programs harness positive peer pressure and utilize it in a peer judgment setting to help address the anti-social, delinquent, and criminal behavior of youthful offenders. The peer judgment, volunteer-driven, youth-led, and positive peer pressure aspects of these diversion programs are the primary programmatic elements that separate these juvenile justice and youth justice diversion programs from all others. This three (3) day training institute includes a free 1/2 day grant writing session, and provides participants with the knowledge and skills to establish, expand, enhance and/or learn Teen/Youth/Student/Peer Court and Peer Jury programs. This new Double-Track Training includes sessions for beginners and an advanced track. Click here to register.

2/1: Science Action Club: Bird Scouts Training
This training will take place at the Network for Youth Success office in Troy. This training will give practitioners the knowledge and materials to run 12 modules of content and engage youth in citizen science connected to the Cornell Lab of Ornithology. Follow this link to register.

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.

3/12-3/14: Challenging Behavior in Preschool Children Train-the-Trainer, Hartford, CT
This train-the-trainer session is designed specifically for professionals working with teachers to better support preschool children with challenging behavior. During this professional development experience, trainers will participate in an intensive, interactive session delving more deeply into the understanding of, prevention of and planned responses to challenging behaviors in young children. It highlights the Devereux Center for Resilient Children DVD resource, Facing the Challenge, as well as the best-selling book by Barbara Kaiser and Judy Sklar-Rasminksy, Challenging Behavior in Young Children, 4th Edition. This session is a MUST for trainers who want to enhance their training sessions...
on the difficult and important topic of working with children with challenging behaviors. Click here to register. (Registration closes March 1st).

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.

School’s Out, Make it Count!
2019 Annual Conference

5/10-5/11: Network for Youth Success Annual Conference, Saratoga Springs
Back by popular demand for one more year in Saratoga Springs! The New York State Network for Youth Success is holding its Annual Conference May 10 & 11! Come attend New York's only statewide conference for Afterschool, Summer, and Expanded Learning Professionals. This conference brings together over 200 professionals to participate in two full days of workshops on topics ranging from SEL to Leadership. Follow this link to register today!

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