Growing up, Hamad Alghareeb did not find traditional schooling engaging, or at times even relevant. Hamad said, “I thrived on extracurricular activities, afterschool programs, and summer camps that gave me the choice of what to learn and had a more of a hands-on learning approach.” This is how Hamad’s interest working in the afterschool, summer, and expanded learning field began.

Hamad ended up volunteering and working at the same afterschool and summer programs he attended. Afterwards, he became a full-time Youth Program Specialist. Hamad stated, “I had a career shift towards education and youth development.”

After exploring his skills, passions, motivations and career options, Hamad looked further into education with a purpose in order to make learning more relevant and enjoyable. Hamad added, “I believe that students learn differently and they are only waiting for someone to unlock their learning potential so that they would be productive and responsible global citizens. We live in an ever-changing world, and that requires our educational systems, schools, and policies to keep up with the change to help students for relevant real-world success.” Hamad believes expanded learning takes the students out of the traditional education environment and provides additional accessible learning opportunities for success.
Currently, Hamad works as a Universal Pre-K Program Assistant Director. He co-manages and supervises 16 classrooms in six different schools at the City School District of Albany. Hamad noted, “Providing accessible programming for students and families is a shared vision between Universal Pre-Kindergarten and expanded learning time field. Pre-Kindergarten is not classified as a universal human right globally. Therefore, not all schools and/or school districts provide Pre-K opportunities. We work with school districts and state or federal grants to provide such necessary educational opportunities for students to enable them to succeed in their subsequent schooling experience.”

Hamad also told us about a new sub-program that his organization has started this year called “Book Nook”. It is a program that promotes both literacy, reading, and community engagement, where they invite community members to read to the Pre-K students during both school and afterschool hours. Hamad told us, “We find that the interaction between our diverse body of young students and our guests encourages our students to use their academic and social emotional skills with individuals outside of their comfort zone. At the same time it exposes community members to the importance of Pre-Kindergarten and expanded learning time.”

Hamad believes that the benefits of afterschool are endless as students who attend afterschool programs tend to score higher in ELA and Math academically and have better social and emotional skills than their peers who don’t attend such programs. They also access more opportunities that could lead them to reach their potential, be their best authentic self, and be successful productive citizens in the future. He added, “students gets the chance to be in a safe environment, work on their academics, and interact with responsible and caring adults. In addition, all of our afterschool programs provide free snacks and dinner, so no child will go to bed hungry.”

When asked what his favorite part of his job is, Hamad responded, “my favorite part about my job is seeing the tremendous growth of all of these students during the span of one year. When I hear that a Pre-K student who attended our Pre-K program in 1998, and later our afterschool programs, is now in college and interested in a career in human development, I know that this world is going to be a better place in the future.”

Wayne Consortium Launches Community Schools Initiative
Finger Lakes Community Schools, in partnership with the Wayne County Community Consortium of Community Schools, is embarking on a regional community schools effort to enhance opportunities for local students. The initiative was launched at a recent meeting in Lyons attended by local and state leaders in the community schools effort.

The community schools movement takes advantage of schools’ abilities to provide “a place and a set of partnerships” for services that impact youth and families, including academics, health, social services and community development.

“This is a tremendous opportunity to collect, coordinate and align resources that will lead to better outcomes for our kids,” said Jay Roscup, Community Schools Director for the Wayne County Consortium.

Wayne County and Finger Lakes Community Schools' partners reviewed progress and opportunities, and sought guidance from local partners to develop successful strategies to shape the growth of community schools. Core elements of community schools include family and community engagement, collaborative leadership, expanded learning, and integrated student supports.

“Community schools hold tremendous potential for youth,” said Kelly Sturgis, Executive Director of the New York State Network for Youth Success. “When local families and community partners come together, significant strides can be made to keep students safe, learning and healthy — and help them visualize and achieve success.”

Attend the Site Leader Institute
Join us on July 17, 2019 in Troy, NY!

Site directors in afterschool programs often have skills necessary for working with children and youth but little to no training in program operation and management. In order to build the best foundation for programs, the Network for Youth Success will deliver training and support to site directors and leaders.

The goal of this training is to expose new directors to the knowledge base and skill set of effective afterschool supervision and management. The training will focus on positive youth development approaches and the supervision of those approaches. The training will also review practices on resource management, family and community partnerships, project management, and coaching techniques for supervisors.
In order to promote positive youth development in afterschool programs, the trainers will model and utilize those same approaches for the adult learners. Webinars will utilize the chat and polling features in order to promote engagement and critical thinking of participants. In-person trainings will use multiple grouping strategies, and various techniques for multiple learning styles, both to teach content effectively and to show supervisors methods they can use with their staff and the youth they serve.

Professional Membership and Beyond the Bell
Each participant will receive a membership in the Network for Youth Success and an ambassador level membership in the National Afterschool Association (NAA). These memberships include discounts on the Network’s annual conference and members-only newsletters, among other benefits. Participants also secure a copy of the American Institutes for Research (AIR) book Beyond the Bell as an aid to the many afterschool directors across the country who needed support in operations. Beyond the Bell 4th Edition offers a straightforward guide to planning, decision making, recruiting, and communications in an afterschool setting.

Ongoing Technical Assistance
Following the in-person session in August, the format of the sessions will shift. Instead of focusing on new content, sessions will be timed to allow participants to digest what they have learned, apply it in their programs, and bring questions and challenges back to their training partners (the trainers and co-participants). This method will give participants the chance to apply what they have learned to their specific context, school, and community, and still receive professional development support in implementation. While the Network for Youth Success has resources and knowledge to share, the application and implementation of the knowledge is the most important and most challenging part of the learning process. The trainers will encourage group sharing of ideas and resources during these sessions, but the focus will be on responding to specific challenges and concerns raised by members of the group. This will allow deeper learning of the material, while also giving participants the chance to benefit from the scenarios and expertise of other participants.

Click here for more information and how to register.

Become a Power of 3:00 Ambassador

The Network for Youth Success is holding our statewide Power of 3:00 Ambassador Program for the third year!
This year, we are selecting a cohort of passionate afterschool providers and supporters from across New York who will work directly with staff from the Network’s Policy Department to develop the advocacy and media skill set to become an effective advocate for the children and youth they serve!

This is a free and all-expenses paid, year-long advocacy program! Learn more about the program and previous cohorts [here].

To apply for the program, click [here].

Applications are open until Wednesday, July 31 at 5pm.

Please share with anyone you think would be interested in this opportunity. We look forward to receiving your applications!

### Upcoming Events

**7/12: Implementing a Whole Child Approach, Conference Call**
How can schools, communities and families work together to support the whole child? Jonathan Raymond, the former superintendent of the Sacramento Public Schools, and author of "Wildflowers: A Superintendent's Challenge to America," offers some simple advice: "Make every decision from the perspective of what is best for children." In this thought leader conversation, the Forum's CEO and President Karen Pittman will sit down with Jonathan to look at the practical questions. [Click here](#) to register for the free conference call and discussion.

**7/17: 2019 Site Leader Institute, Troy, NY**
Site directors in afterschool programs often have skills at working with children and youth but little to no training in program operation and management. In order to build the best foundation for programs, the Network for Youth Success will deliver training and support to site directors and leaders. The goal of this training is to expose new directors to the knowledge base and skill set of effective afterschool supervision and management. The training will focus on positive youth development approaches and the supervision of those approaches. The training will also review practices on resource management, family and community partnerships, project management, and coaching techniques for supervisors. For more information and how to register, [click here](#).

**7/20: Monroe County Girls Sports Festival, Rochester, NY**
The Monroe County Girls Sports Festival is a great opportunity for young women, ages 6-12, to showcase their athletic ability, be active, learn about leadership and teamwork, and take on new
challenges. The festival supports young women from Monroe County in their pursuit of new experiences and new opportunities. Festival participants will be able to choose four different sports to explore. Local teams and organizations will manage each of the sports and participants are welcome to select any four available sports, but are also encouraged to try a sport they have never experienced before. Registration is free! Additional information can be found at www.monroecounty.gov/GirlsSportsFestival

7/23: Framing Our Future: Emerging Trends and Opportunities for Afterschool
This signature event at Baruch College in New York City celebrates the impact of the field on youth and families and promotes innovation and research to sustain this work. There is expected to be over 200 participants including executive directors and supervisors from youth-serving community-based agencies, funders, colleagues in higher education, policy makers, and educators. For more information and registration, click here.

7/30: School-Age Care Credential Informational Meeting, Poughkeepsie, NY
The New York State School-Age Care Credential has been developed to promote quality services to children and families by providing specific standards, training, and evaluation of school-age staff members and providers based on their ability to meet the unique needs of this age group. It is an opportunity for adults working with school-age children to gain professional recognition for demonstrating competence in their on-the-job skills. Come to an informational meeting on Tuesday, July 30 from 5:00 - 6:00 pm to learn about the credential and the credential process as well as meet the instructor/advisor, Arlene Rider. For more information or to enroll contact Darla Fulmer at (845) 473-4141 ext. 216 or dfulmer@childcaredutchess.org.

8/4-8/10: Mindfulness Training for Educators, Lake Placid, NY
This weeklong program set in the idyllic environment of a lakeside retreat in the Adirondacks explores teaching for the 21st century. Participants will learn mindfulness practices, meditation, the neuroscience of learning, the nature of mind, and how to cultivate their inner resources. Each day will include experiential learning, as well as a cognitive element – and afternoons will be free to enjoy the many outdoor activities available to us, or to simply relax and read a book. Learn how mindfulness might benefit you in your role as an educator, and re-connect with the ideals that brought you into this field from the start! Click here for more information and how to register.

8/19-8/20: Games in Education Symposium, Troy, NY
This is a two-day event focusing on the use of technology to supplement and inspire education in the classroom. Participants span early childhood through post secondary educators in New York’s Capital District and surrounding regions who are interested in finding ways to use video games and related technology to enrich and inspire interest by students in core curriculum topics. The symposium has run annually since 2007 and is free for educators to attend. See more at: http://gamesineducation.org/

8/22 & 8/26: Health & Safety Training: SAC Directors, Troy, NY
This training is a 15 hour requirement for all new directors. Directors are responsible for hiring, training, and maintaining staff who provide a healthy and safe environment for children. This course will help directors look at policies and procedures that reinforce high-quality health and safety practices. Directors will get the most out of this training if they bring a copy of the policies and procedures from their program. This is a two-day course. Participants must attend both days. Click here for more information and how to register.
9/17: Distance Learning SAC Credential Course
Looking to advance in the school-age child care field? Register for the Distance Learning SAC Credential Course this September and you be qualified to be a Site Director by the end of the school year! [Click here](#) for more information and how to register.

9/18: Capital Region SAC Credential Course, Albany, NY
The New York State School-Age Care Credential promotes quality services to children and families by providing specific standards, training, and evaluation of schoolage staff members and providers. It is an opportunity for adults working with schoolage children to gain professional recognition for demonstrating competence in their on-the-job skills. The first semester of the course begins September 18 and goes until December 18. The second semester will begin January 8, 2020 and go to April 8, 2020. These classes will be held from 6:30pm-9:30pm and the cost of attendance is $1,250. [Click here](#) for more information and how to register.

10/5: North Country Training Institute, Plattsburgh, NY
Join Erin Broderick and Timothy Fowler for a day of school-age training! The North Country Training Institute will cover topics relevant to school-age providers in afterschool, summer, and expanded learning programs. This day-long event features four 90-minute sessions (a total of 6 hours of training): guiding positive behaviors, managing transitions, engineering design, and bookmaking. For more information and how to register, [click here](#).

10/14: Columbus Day Training Event, Albany, NY
Join Timothy Fowler and Jay Roscup for 6 hours of training! More information coming soon!

10/24: Lights On Afterschool, Nationwide
Since 2000, Lights On Afterschool has been celebrated nationwide to call attention to the importance of afterschool programs for America’s children, families, and communities. [Click here](#) for more information.

11/8: Regional Network Symposium, Rochester, NY
Our Regional Network Symposium will be November 8 at the Holiday Inn in downtown Rochester! Look out for more information here and on our website.

11/9: Rochester Training Institute, Rochester, NY
Our Training Institute will be Saturday, November 9 at the Holiday Inn in downtown Rochester! this event will hold six OCFS training hours, a variety of training topics appropriate for supervisors, teachers, and frontline staff working with school-age children, networking opportunities, and a buffet lunch! [Click here](#) for more information and how to register or to access the RFP to present.

Our 2020 Annual Conference will be in Troy for 2020! Save the date now! Look for more information here and on our website as we get closer to the date!

Follow us!