This week we are spotlighting Solomon McAuley who, in the past has worked with the Network as a presenter. Solomon began working in the field at the age of 14 with the National Youth Sport Program (NYSP) summer camp. He remembers at that time his case manager, Ms. Jackie McMillian, would have about 30 youth between the ages of 14 and 17 in one small room. Looking back he remembers it seeming like they were in the smallest room in the world, but that didn't change their motivation and readiness to work.

Today, Solomon works as a NextGen Specialist for the Centralina Workforce Development Board. His role is to provide administrative guidance and support to contractors in his region that operate NextGen Services which is funded under the Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act (WIOA). Although they do not operate any afterschool or summer programs, they focus on preparing young adults between the ages 17 and 24 to enter into the workforce.

He wanted to highlight NC Youth Summit, a 2-day leadership conference hosted by NextGen Youth and Young Adult Services. Solomon who has been on the planning committee for the last 5 years and the co-chair for the last 3 years is very excited about the conference. In his words, "To see youth and young adults come together with their peers in a setting that many of them have never been in leaves you speechless." He continues, "The summit allows them to engage, network, and gain life nuggets to enhance their lives." He believes some of the greatest moments have been overhearing youth talk about how they have never been in a hotel before or had a real sit-down dinner. "It makes you smile but also leaves tears in your eyes."
NYS Governor's Youth Council

The New York State Governor’s Youth Council provides an effective way to engage youth in state government and creates a platform for their voices to be heard by policymakers. This is an incredible opportunity for New York’s youth to represent their county on a statewide level! Members of the NYS Governor’s Youth Council will offer their solutions to key issues facing young people in NYS to the Governor and other policymakers, including how to have better outreach and communication strategies to young people. Youth must be recognized throughout this initiative; if you would like your voice heard apply today! Youth must be a New York State resident to apply. For more information, click here.

QSA Corner: Why Self-Assessment is Important

The Network for Youth Success believes that clear quality standards and ongoing program assessment are central to building effective and sustainable afterschool programs. A SELF assessment means engaging in this process on your own timeline and on your own terms. Self-assessment means comparing your program against standards, seeing where there might be room for growth, and where there might be strengths in what you do. External assessment (by a third party) can also do this, but is often connected to meeting regulatory standards or continued funding. Keeping assessment in-house makes the assessment low-stakes and gives control of the process to the program and its staff. For many this is the best of both worlds: improving quality without jeopardizing funding or reputation while important changes or upgrades are made. Learn more about the process of self-assessment, and how to access the free Quality Self-Assessment tool, by visiting our website on this link here.

2019-2020 Rochester Recreation Guide

The City of Rochester’s winter/spring recreation line-up offers many opportunities to get out and stay active during the colder months. From snowshoe races to garden talks, the annual Winter Adventures Series will delight any nature enthusiast. The R-Centers are jam-packed with activities and programs that inspire people of all ages to get fit, be creative, learn something new and make friends along the way. To top it all off, the City hosts a variety of winter-themed events including Holidays at the Market and free holiday fun at the Roc Holiday Village! Embrace winter and don’t get cold feet! Try something new this winter and take advantage of the opportunities available in our city. Have a fun, safe and active season!
Click here to download the Winter/Spring 2019-20 Recreation Guide to view all of the exciting program and activity offerings near you!

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**OCFS Regulations Resources**

For OCFS resources in the new background checks, check out the links below:

- FAQs on Background Clearances;
- ICYMI: Comprehensive Background Clearance Requirements Video;
- SAC Regulations & Definitions;
- 6000 Pack;
- OCFS website;
- Letter to Families, Funders, and School Personnel;
- Leave a comment or question about the new regulations here.

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**Network for Youth Success Events**

**12/4/19 - 5/7/20: CRELO Trainings, Across the Capital Region**
The Network for Youth Success will be providing various Front Line and Director Trainings across the Capital Region at no cost. For more information click here.

**1/14-17/2020: Health and Safety Training for Directors, Troy, NY**
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. Registration is limited to 12, so don't wait to register! click here.

**1/21/20-4/21/20: Distance Learning**
The Distance Learning School-Age Care (SAC) Preparatory Course includes viewing recorded videos, reading, and preparing a portfolio and resource file. This class meets the education requirement to be a Site Director in New York State. We are now enrolling for Spring 2020.

**3/6: Legislative Breakfast, Greenbush, NY**
The Network plans to host its annual Legislative Breakfast on March 6, 2020, at the Greenbush YMCA. Stay tuned for more information.

Our Annual Conference will be in Troy for 2020 and registration is now open! In addition to two full days of trainings, and vendors, we are now also accepting award nominations. For the second year in a row we will be giving out awards based to those who represent and illustrate the following at high levels: quality leadership, exemplary professionalism, program excellence & innovation, champion of the field, and Regional Network Leader. For more information on nominations or to register, visit our website here. To become a vendor, click here.
8/20 & 8/24/2020: Health and Safety Training for Directors, Troy, NY
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. Registration is limited to 12, so don't wait to register! click here.

Other Events

12/3: New York Council of Non-Profits Diversity Workshop, Binghamton, NY
Join us on Tuesday, December 3rd from 9-noon at the Tri-Cities Opera House located at 315 Clinton Street in Binghamton. Learn more about how your organization can get the conversation started in integrating Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion (DEI) concepts into organizational culture and cultivating a diverse and inclusive environment for all. This session will begin with providing a foundational understanding of the various components of diversity, equity and inclusion and a common comprehension of the terms used in the DEI space. The session will help you and your organization better digest the 'bridge equation' for diversity and inclusion. For more information, or to register, click here.

12/4: Annual Monroe County Intergenerational Holiday Ball
This annual FREE event brings high school seniors together with community seniors for a formal evening of fun, fellowship and dancing! There will be a live band, photo booth, dinner and lots of dancing at the Double Tree Hotel in Henrietta. Please RSVP by December 2nd and note that all youth must have the Monroe County Consent Form (click here) completed and signed by their parent/guardian to reserve a spot. Please fax (753-6281) or email the completed form and they will notify participants of further details, once we receive their completed forms.

What will you do in an emergency? Join the U.S. Department of Education's You for Youth (Y4Y) Technical Assistance team as they walk you through developing a program safety plan that meets local and national standards. You will be joined by a representative from the U.S. Department of Education's Readiness and Emergency Management for Schools (REMS) Technical Assistance Center to discuss best practices for safety planning, and aligning your host organization's current safety protocols to relevant regulations. This showcase will also feature 21st CCLC programs who will share strategies for implementing an optimal safety plan. Register now.

12/14: Middle School Girls Data Bootcamp, NY, NY
Girls+data invites middle-school girls, grades 5-9, to learn about high demand tech careers in data analytics. This three-hour hands-on STEMinar will teach participants to build, customize, and present their own data story using analytics software Looker. Swag and snacks included! For more information, click here.

Join over 2,000 members of our community at the Gaylord National Resort & Convention Center for four days of networking, learning, and inspiration. Special events, 200+ educational sessions, daily keynotes, and an interactive Learning Expo all designed to meet the needs of the developing professionals, and emerging current leaders of afterschool. Come to NAA Convention 2020, and leave saying, "I've found my people!" For more information, click here.

Common Ground is looking for volunteer mediators to serve in our community-based and Family Court Mediation programs. Common Ground is a non-profit mediation center, serving Greene & Columbia Counties, funded in part through a grant from the NYS Unified Court System. Resumes with letter of interest to: dwallant@commongroundinc.org or mail, Dawn Wallant, Executive Director, Common Ground Dispute Resolution Inc., 11 William St., Catskill NY 12414. For more information call 518-943-0523

This conference will take place in Rochester with actress and activist Ms. Abernathy, daughter of American Civil Rights Leader Ralph Abernathy. For more information or to register, click here.

4/28 - 5/1: 2020 BOOST Conference, Palm Springs, CA
The 2020 BOOST Conference will convene over 2,500 global educators April 28 - May 1 in sunny Palm Springs, CA. They are now in the Early-Bird registration phase with a rate of $465. Register your team today to celebrate the best of afterschool and expanded learning fields. Click here for more information and how to apply.

Ways You Can Help the Network!
Choose us as your non-profit through Amazon Smile, donate, become a member, follow us on Facebook and Twitter, or check out our website!

Remove my name from all future mass email communications.

Address postal inquiries to:
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