

Spotlight, SEL Importance for Careers, and PASEsetter Nominations!

1 message

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November 2018

Spotlight

Marcel Braithwaite of the Police Athletic League

Marcel Braithwaite, Director of Community Engagement for the Police Athletic League (PAL), started working full-time in the afterschool field in 2004. During that time, he was Program Coordinator for PAL at the Foster Laurie Community Center in Queens, New York. Marcel first came to the field with a master's degree in business and experience in corporate and government environments. What attracted Marcel to the opportunity at PAL was the ability to have a direct impact on the development of young people and the mission to inspire them to become leaders and productive members of society. Over the years, Marcel has learned more about the wider field of youth development and the dedicated individuals that have contributed their talents to improve the lives of young people. Marcel stated, "it has been a great source of pride to take part in the movement to expand and professionalize the field of youth development."

As the Director of Community Engagement at PAL, Marcel works to strengthen partnerships with NYPD, elected officials, local leaders, and a variety of community stakeholders to support their programs. In addition to this, he also serves as a board member of the New York State Network for Youth Success and an advisory board member of the CUNY School of Professional Studies, Youth Studies Program.

We asked Marcel about the benefits of afterschool, summer, and expanded learning programs and he told us that youth development programs, "add a vibrancy to communities by providing opportunities for young people to express themselves and contribute in meaningful ways to the well-being of their community." Marcel asserts that this dynamic benefits both the individual student and the communities in which they live and the impact expands exponentially across our society.



When asked what his favorite part of his job is, Marcel responded, "my favorite part of the job is working with people, youth, and adults. On a daily basis, I have the privilege of working with

committed, intelligent, and talented people to train, to solve problems, and to create new programs and opportunities for youth. It has been an honor.”

Resource

How to Teach Students the Social-Emotional Skills That Employers Want

A [national survey](#) of employers found their three highest priority skills to be teamwork, decisionmaking, and communication, and of the 16 skills identified by the [World Economic Forum](#) as required for 21st century success, 10 relate to teamwork or emotional intelligence.

So how can the American education system and American employers work together to help prepare students for the 21st century workforce? The National Commission convened dozens of business leaders to ask exactly that question. Here are some of the main lessons we learned:

The business community values a very broad range of social and emotional skills. When we asked business leaders to list the top skills valued by his/her company or industry, we heard some things we were expecting—communication, teamwork, adaptability—but many more that we hadn't previously heard articulated. Corporate leaders also included skills such as intellectual curiosity; willingness to give and receive feedback; personal ownership of problems and challenges; and recognition of unconscious biases.

Social and emotional skills are explicitly measured and heavily rewarded in hiring and promotion practices. Corporate leaders don't just claim to value social and emotional skills or appreciate them in the abstract; they define their hiring and promotion criteria around them. We heard several corporate leaders describe advancement rubrics that weight "what you do" equally to "how you do it"—meaning that how an employee interacts with teammates, communicates ideas, adapts to challenges, and projects passion on the job is as important as their productivity.

Finding common and accurate language on social and emotional development is key to promoting shared understanding. While our participants did not necessarily agree on what terminology to use when talking about social and emotional development, they did agree that establishing common language is essential to moving toward valuing and discussing it effectively. In particular, the group expressed its distaste for the term "soft skills" and its implicit devaluation of skills that are not "hard" or technical.

Corporate leaders think globally about the assessment and development of social and emotional skills. Throughout the discussion, corporate leaders emphasized a multicultural perspective on social and emotional skills as a priority. Some mentioned cultural sensitivity and the ability to work with diverse teams as key skills for employees. Others, when prompted to describe the ideal learning environments for skill development, mentioned the importance of maintaining diverse spaces for leadership training.

Business leaders have plenty of ideas about what schools can do better. Many members of the focus group offered their perspectives on how schools could improve on properly cultivating social, emotional, and academic development. One speaker criticized feedback and evaluation systems wherein students are graded on and commended for their academic success, but not for social and emotional excellence. Another speaker sensitive to the tight time and resource constraints affecting schools stressed the importance of embedding social and emotional learning into academic curricula.

[Click here for the full article from Education Week.](#)

Nominate an Outstanding Afterschool Educator!

Each year, PASE honors five outstanding afterschool educators at the annual PASEsetter Awards Benefit. PASEsetter Award Winners are individuals whose commitment, energy, and creativity have had an indelible impact on the children and youth of New York City.

To nominate an individual for a 2019 PASEsetter Award, please [complete this online form](#) by **Friday, December 14, 2018**.



Who is a PASEsetter?

- A staff person at a youth-serving agency in New York City whose primary work is directly with young people in afterschool, in the evenings, and/or during the summers.
- Nominees must be paid staff, not volunteers, working either full or part-time, and have worked a minimum of three years at their current agency.
- A staff person who attended an afterschool program growing up and who is now working in afterschool will be given special consideration by the selection committee.
- No nominations will be accepted from an agency that has had a PASEsetter Award winner within the last three years.
- Executive Directors are NOT eligible.

Learn more by downloading a [full award description](#).

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Need the qualifications to become a Site Director?

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Upcoming Events

11/14: A Night at the Museum

Join the Buffalo Afterschool Network to collectively celebrate all afterschool programs with their annual Lights on Event November 14th! This year's theme will be A Night at the Museum as they will be hosted at the Buffalo Museum of Science! Be sure to join in for fun, food, and an evening of celebration of afterschool programming. Email buffaloafterschool@gmail.com to confirm your attendance.

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 how to plan and integrate activities that support various developmental levels and stages. [Click here](#) for more information and how to register.

11/29: Cornell University Motivation & Goals Webinar

When and how do young people's academic, social, and health goals inspire action? This free webinar from 11:00AM – 12:00PM will focus on motivation among adolescents. It will explore how motivation develops over time along with how aspects of young people's specific social contexts shape what goals they pursue in the moment. Finally, it will consider how to design youth program contexts to best support motivation among young people. Presenter: Kristen Elmore, MSW, PhD, Bronfenbrenner Center for Translational Research, Cornell University. [Click here to register!](#)

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 Newtwork 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!](#)

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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