

## STEM Corner, CACFP Success Story, and More!

1 message

Jessie <capacity@networkforyouthsuccess.org>

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To: Jessie Havens <capacity@networkforyouthsuccess.org>

### STEM Corner, CACFP Success Story, and More!

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NEW YORK STATE  
NETWORK FOR  
YOUTH SUCCESS

#### Spotlight

Sara Hill, Trainer at SCO Family of Services

We spoke with [Sara Hill](#), a consultant, writer, researcher, and trainer in the afterschool, summer, and expanded learning fields. She currently works at SCO Family of Services where she designs and facilitates training. Sara is also part of a two year long National Afterschool Matters action research fellowship.

Sara's background is in adult literacy and she has worked doing literacy assistance and professional development. She initially wanted to work in afterschool but when she started doing staff development and literacy training she fell in love with it. Also, before going back to school to get her doctorate, Sara participated in an action research group which was the first of its kind that had practitioners doing action research.

Currently, Sara has been working on a publication on access and equity. The publication focuses on examining blockages in the afterschool field that keep people from participating. Six authors were selected to write different sections within the work, one of them being about how gentrification affects students coming into program. Sara will also be presenting at the [National AfterSchool Association Annual Convention](#) as well as the [Network for Youth Success Annual Conference: School's Out Make it Count](#).



Sara said that what she finds most rewarding about her work is also what she finds most challenging, working with frontline staff. She says this because she is passionate about building upon the field. She wants to discover more ways to show staff how afterschool is a career and how frontline is a stepping stone with various transferable skills. Sara said she hopes that in the future she can work with accredited colleges and afterschool staff to build curriculum and access to getting credentialed.

## Only a Few Days Left to Nominate a School-Age Professional, Program, or Champion!

May 10 - 11, 2019 in Saratoga Springs, NY

# School's Out, Make it Count!

2 0 1 9   A n n u a l   C o n f e r e n c e

The Network for Youth Success will be hosting our First Annual Awards Ceremony during the closing session of our Annual Conference!

The awards available are:

- The Quality Leadership Award
- The Exemplary Award of Professionalism
- The Program Award of Excellence and Innovation
- The Champion Award

[Submit a nomination and view award descriptions here!](#)

**Nomination deadline is March 1, 2019**

All award finalists will be selected by an independent panel of judges. Once finalists have been selected, additional information may be requested. Finalists and their nominators will be notified by email. If additional information is needed, the Network will contact the nominator.

The winner and honorees will be announced at the School's Out, Make It Count! Conference on May 11, 2019. Awards will be presented during the closing ceremony at the Embassy Suites.

By submitting a nomination or supporting document (such as a letter of support), participating individuals grant the Network permission to use the any of the submitted materials, not protected by copyright, in advertisements and/or promotions without compensation or notification. Such advertisements or promotions may include internet/social media announcements of the awards or the conference, as well as print materials distributed at, or in promotion of, the events. Self-nominations are not prohibited for these awards.

**And don't forget to register for the Conference here!**

## CACFP Success Story Video Series Featuring the Hudson River Museum

The NYS Network for Youth Success has created a series of videos with the Hudson River Museum about using the Child and Adult Care Food Program (CACFP) in their afterschool programs. The videos interview both staff members and youth participants of the program. The interviewees discuss why CACFP is important to them and their program, as well as, the long term impacts it can have on healthy eating choices. The staff also discuss the process of applying for CACFP and why they found it to be an integral part of the afterschool program. [Follow this link](#) to the CACFP page on our website to view all three segments.



## Middle School CS in Science

### Code.org and Project GUTS

[Code.org](#) has partnered with the award-winning Project GUTS (Growing Up Thinking Scientifically) to deliver a middle school science program consisting of four instructional modules and professional development for the introduction of computer science concepts into science classrooms within the context of modeling and simulation. The goal of the program is to situate computer science practices and concepts within the context of life, physical, and earth sciences, and to prepare students to pursue formal, year-long courses in computer science during high school. CS in Science is based on a crosswalk identifying areas of overlap between the NGSS and Computer Science Teachers Association K-12 Computer Science Standards. Download a [brief](#) or [full](#) description.

The Middle School Science Curriculum includes four modules; each consists of five or six lessons that augment the educational outcomes of traditional science instruction to include computational thinking within engaging activities of modeling and simulation.

#### **Module 1: Introduction to Computer Modeling and Simulation**

The Introductory module presents basic concepts in modeling complex systems through hands-on activities and participatory simulations. A series of highly-engaging design-and-build activities guide students through developing their first computer model in StarLogo Nova, a modeling and simulation environment developed at Massachusetts Institute of Technology. [Download Module 1](#)

#### **Module 2: Water as a Shared Resource**

In this Earth Science module students will investigate the importance of ground water and the impacts of water usage on aquifer levels as well as explore how to model important parts of the water cycle including evaporation and infiltration of water into different types of soils to recharge the aquifers. [Download Module 2](#)

#### **Module 3: Ecosystems as Complex Systems**

The Life Science module begins with an exploration of a simple predator-prey model to consider who eats whom and what happens when one population grows faster than another. After learning more about ecosystem dynamics, producers and consumers, and interdependent relationships within an ecosystem, students develop their own model of a local ecosystem. [Download Module 3](#)

#### **Module 4: Chemical Reactions**

The Chemical Reactions module explores the conditions under which chemical reactions occur, the evidence of a chemical reaction, limiting reactants versus reactants in excess, and the conditions under which chemical reactions stop. The chemical reaction simulated is that of silver nitrate and copper. [Download Module 4](#)

[Visit their website](#) for more information.



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### Upcoming Events

#### **3/6: Mindfulness + Stress Reduction for AfterSchool Staff, New York, NY**

Working with youth can be incredibly rewarding, but also stress inducing. Without the tools to effectively manage challenges, there is high risk of burnout. Research shows that mindfulness practices support youth workers in various ways, such as improving interpersonal relationships, and reducing stress and burnout. [Registration](#) opens on Tuesday, February 19 at 9:00 am.

#### **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-Rasminky, 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).

#### **3/15-3/18: National AfterSchool Association Convention, New York, NY**

Join our community for four days of networking, learning, and inspiration. For more information, follow [this link](#). If you are attending, join the Network for Youth Success for a New York State Meet-Up with networking and raffle prizes on Friday, March 15th at 8:30pm. Advance [registration](#) is required.

#### **3/16: Terra Science and Engineering Fair, Syracuse, NY**

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](#).

#### **3/18: Multiplying Good with Students In Action, New York, NY**

Currently active in 13 communities across the U.S., Students In Action (SIA) is a unique youth volunteer leadership training and recognition program that supports, trains, and empowers today's youth to be leaders, problem solvers, entrepreneurs, and impactful global citizens. [Registration](#) opens on Monday, March 4 at 9:00 am.

#### **4/4-4/6: NYAEC Annual Conference, Verona, NY**

This conference will host two full days of workshops, exhibitors, and keynote speakers for early care professionals. [Visit their website](#) for more information and how to register.

**School's Out, Make it Count!**

2 0 1 9   A n n u a l   C o n f e r e n c e

**5/10-5/11: Network for Youth Success Annual Conference, Saratoga Springs, NY**

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!

**6/1: Smart Coos' First Annual National Bilingual Bee & Biliiteracy Competition**

Early bird registration is now open for Smart Coos' First Annual National Bilingual Bee & Biliiteracy Competition. This event aims to bring 250+ bilingual student participants, ages 6-15, together. The competition will assess children's proficiency in English along with one of these languages: Mandarin Chinese, French, Spanish, or Haitian Creole. If there are students who would like to participate or educators who would like to volunteer/judge please email Mirta at [mirta@smartcoos.com](mailto:mirta@smartcoos.com)

**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.

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*Address postal inquiries to:*  
New York State Network for Youth Success, Inc.  
[415 River Street](#)  
[Troy, NY 12180](#)

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