

21st Century Spotlight and Advocacy Day Recap!

1 message

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Spotlight

Erin Church, Site Coordinator of 21st Century Community Learning Center, Clyde-Savannah CSD

Erin started in the afterschool field working for a 21st Century Community Learning Center in Florida where she was teaching Physical Education in 2004-2005. She said, "It was all new to me and exciting!" She then transitioned to working in the recreation field in 2007 and then back to just afterschool programming through the 21st Century Community Learning Center in 2010.

Erin was a Physical Education teacher out of state immediately following graduation from SUNY Cortland in 2000. She quickly realized that the "monotonous delivery of physical education lessons was not for [her]." She really just "wanted to play games, develop relationships, and let children know it is ok to be themselves!" As she realized that she wanted to work in public education but not as a PE teacher, she was fortunate to find that her county and multiple local school districts were awarded 21st Century Community Learning Center grants. She was lucky enough to land a job as one of the site coordinators because of these grants. Erin says she's "never been as happy as I am in my career."

She is currently a Site Coordinator for the 21st Century Community Learning Center at the Clyde-Savannah CSD. They provide summer sports camps, STEAM Camp, and Summer Adventure & Interactive Learning Camp for children of all ages. They also have a well-developed afterschool program that focuses on STEAM and keeping their students connected to their school and community. Erin stated that "activities include baking/cooking, computer coding, video gaming, construction, mixed martial arts, yoga, ELA and math enrichment, and the list goes on." Erin added that they also provide experiences outside of the district such as "college campus activities for young people, field trips to museums, local parks, youth conferences, 5k run/walks, community service, and collaborations with local organizations."

Erin urges that "keeping kids connected to their community/school is imperative to their sense of belonging. Students who are connected and have healthy school and teacher/adult relationships are more likely to be successful as they become a young adult. They have pride in where they came from!" The community Erin works in is very rural and she says that many of the students do not have the financial means or family support they need. With this in mind, Erin knows "Clyde-Savannah CSD provides the opportunities, support, and care that these children may require for healthy and successful development."

Erin also added how afterschool is important even as the children are grown up. Many of the children who were participants as young children become youth counselors and teachers' aides for their

program. Erin says “they are being paid, have transportation provided for them, as well as being role models for our younger students. I use to have to recruit students to work, now I don’t have enough jobs for all the students who want to work! For many of them they wouldn’t have employment due to transportation and our rural location.”

When asked what her favorite part of her job is Erin stated “while I love to see their educational growth, I truly enjoy watching them grow as a person in their values and morals. Being that I work with students of all ages from grades PK-12 in a more relaxed setting than the traditional school day, I enjoy simply talking to the students and developing a positive relationship. Asking how their day was, what was the best part, if it’s mom’s weekend or dad’s, etc. As they mature discussing plans for the summer, lending an ear when they are struggling with another staff member or someone at home, and what’s next after graduation!” Erin added, “I truly want all of my students to be the best person they can be. Everyone has something great to offer the world!”



Register for Our 2019 Annual Conference

May 10 - 11, 2019 in Saratoga Springs, NY

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**REGISTER NOW UNTIL FEBRUARY 1ST TO GET THE
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Draft of the Brochure Available Now!

Register for New York’s ONLY state-wide afterschool and summer learning conference!

- 5.5 hours of Training Each Day
- Leadership Track
- Diversity, Inclusion, & Equity Track
- Executive Director Track
- 30 Minute Speed Sessions
- Buffet Lunch
- Vendor Area
- Networking Opportunities!

Scholarships

Scholarship funding to participate in this training may be available through the Educational Incentive Program (EIP). For more information or to apply for a scholarship, please visit www.ecetp.pdp.albany.edu. You may also contact EIP at eip@albany.edu or 800-295-9616. If you have received an EIP scholarship, please sign it and mail it to the Network along with your registration.

Accommodations

Discounted room rates are available at the Embassy Suites until April 9, 2019. [Book here.](#)

*Other Ways to Register

To register via check or eip, email erin@networkforyouthsuccess.org.

**We still have spots available for vendors, sponsors, and advertising!
Contact capacity@networkforyouthsuccess.org or visit [our website](#) for the application form!!**

Hundreds Join Together to Advocate for Afterschool, Summer, and Expanded Learning Opportunities

The Network for Youth Success hosted our 2019 Advocacy Day on January 23rd at the State Capitol. Hundreds of program leaders, staff, parents, and students came together to advocate for afterschool, summer, and expanded learning opportunities.

The advocates met with 65 legislative offices and provided materials for several others, sharing their experiences and why the programs are so important to communities across the state. In addition, participants shared the Network's [2019 Budget Asks](#), seeking increased funding for the state's afterschool, summer, and expanded learning programs. Check out photos from the event on our [Facebook](#) page and read more on our [press release](#).

Advocacy Day is just one of the many ways the Network advocates for funding in the state budget. We also provided [testimony](#) for the Human Services Budget Hearing on January 24th, and will have many future opportunities in the coming months. To stay informed, sign up for our [Power of 3:00 Listserv](#).

To learn more about where the budget currently stands, read our [Executive Budget Summary](#).



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Upcoming Events

2/23: Girls in STEM Fair at RIT

Girls in grades 5 through 12 are invited to experience hands-on demonstrations presented by RIT's female students and faculty. Come to explore. Come to engage. Come to see all the possibilities of STEM! Free and open to the public! Register by February 8th at: <https://bit.ly/2RDqGX2>

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](#).

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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

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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