This week we are spotlighting Margie Weiner, Manager of Curriculum & Instruction at DREAM. Recently Margie was nominated as a Next Generation Leader from the National Afterschool Alliance. Margie has been with DREAM (formerly Harlem RBI) for over 8 years now (over 2 at her current position) and loves the work they do there. It is evident that others love the work both Margie and DREAM do as well. So much so that the National Afterschool Alliance took note and nominated her into the Next Generation of Afterschool Leaders 2020 cohort. The winter issue of AfterSchool Today, featured her in an article, in which she spoke about her love for afterschool and the work she does. Here is an excerpt from said article:

"I am proud to help create learning spaces where all students feel safe, wanted, and included. I combine my experiences on the ground with my formal study of pedagogy to design curriculum that is accessible and relevant not only for youth but for our diverse staff. Everything we do at DREAM is centered on the power of teams and strong relationships - and I fully believe that building stong relationships among youth and staff is the key to quality programming! I take pride in working behind the scenes to make way for and lift up relationship building within our program structure and elements."

Click on the designated link if you would like to know more about Margie, DREAM, or read the winter issue of AfterSchool Today.
NAA Professional Learning Community

Professional Learning Community for Emerging Leaders of Color NAA is elevating the importance of building a diverse leadership pipeline through the launch of the Professional Learning Community for Emerging Leaders of Color (PLC) with grant support from the S.D. Bechtel, Jr. Foundation and in partnership with the California School-Age Consortium and Development Without Limits. The PLC seeks to foster a network of equity-driven leaders of color, support them in deepening their equity analysis and leadership skills to be agents of change in the afterschool field, and help them create a roadmap that advances their careers in the afterschool field. Applications are due Monday, February 10, 2020. Access more information and the application here.

WGiOS Nominations

As part of the 2020 New York State What's Great in Our State (WGiOS) celebration on May 5, 2020, the planning committee for the Children's Mental Health Awareness Day event is seeking nominations to honor individuals, communities, schools, and organizations across New York State that are making a difference in the field of children and youth mental health. This year’s theme is “20/20: Children's Mental Health Coming into Focus”. Click here for more information.

Here’s your opportunity to recognize those who are doing outstanding work! Their annual recognition focuses on the following six categories:

- Youth/Young Adult
- Family/Caregiver
- Lifetime
- Systems of Care Community
- Organization or Community Group
- School

The deadline for nominations is February 24, 2020. Please submit nominations to Kate Provencher via email at Kathryn.Provencher@omh.ny.gov.

All nominations will be reviewed by the interagency planning committee and notifications will be made by March 24, 2020. Awardees will be recognized at the WGiOS celebration event on Tuesday, May 5, 2020, from 8:30 am to 3:30 p.m., at the Glen Sanders Mansion in Scotia, New York. The day will include workshops as well as recognition of the 2020 Honorees. Contact Kate Provencher with any questions.

QSA Tool

The QSA Tool is meant to be used in concert with other formal and informal evaluation methods, such as youth, parent and staff meetings, youth and parent focus groups, and external monitoring and evaluation. Each of these methods can help identify program strengths and areas in need of improvement.
Whether you need help getting started, or something else, check out our website for a ton of helpful information, including a number of translated QSA’s if needed! Click here to visit our website, or email Marcos Velazquez with any questions.

Join the Network for Youth Success on our I Love Afterschool Valentine’s Campaign. Our goal is to increase awareness about the unbelievable benefits of the afterschool field on a statewide scale using individuals who represent, support, or participate in afterschool programs. We ask you to print out the "I love afterschool because..." template by clicking on the picture to the right, and tell us why you love afterschool by posting it on your own social media using #ILoveAfterschool2020, or by sending it to us at Capacity@NetworkForYouthSuccess.org and allowing us to post on your behalf!

Remember if your picture includes children in them, be sure to have written consent from their parents, or legal guardians.

New OCFS Dear Provider Letter

OCFS released a new Dear Provider Letter on January 13th. Click here to view the new letter. For additional OCFS resources on 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.

Network for Youth Success Events

1/30/20 (TOMORROW) - 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.

3/6: Legislative Breakfast, Greenbush, NY
The Network plans to host its annual Legislative Breakfast on March 6, 2020, at the Greenbush YMCA. If you would like to attend, please sign up by clicking on the link here.

Don’t miss out on the early bird rate ending 1/30 for our Annual Conference. Curious about what trainings are being offered? Check out the draft of the brochure, now available on our website. 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.

9/2020 - 12/2020: 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 Fall 2020.

Other Events

1/29 & 1/30: Summertime STEM, Webinar Session
Get ahead with a winter planning session! Summer is right around the corner, and what a great time for STEM to inspire students to keep on learning through engaging, real-life and relevant activities. An intentionally designed summer program will help students retain and build new knowledge and skills. In this three-part webinar series, the U.S. Department of Education’s (ED) Y4Y technical assistance team will outline an eight-step process for designing a STEM-based summer learning program, best practices for delivering that program and tools to make planning easier. Click here to register for one or both of the sessions starting at 1:00 PM

1/30-31: Health and Safety Training, Syracuse, NY
Directors are responsible for hiring, training, and maintaining staff who provide a healthy and safe environment for children. For more information, contact Dorthea@DEKSConsulting.com.

1/30: Critical Issues Conversations, Bronx, NY
Join Community Schools for a day of professional conversation facilitated by experienced school leaders who will engage you in critical thinking and active participation. This unique opportunity will allow the participants to lead the learning in a truly collaborative way. For more information, or to register, click here.

2/6: 4-H Vet Science Club, Hudson, NY
Join the Vet Science Program! Vet Science will introduce youth to the importance of animal health and wellness through a variety of species. Those involved will have the chance to hear from experts in the field and engage and participate in hands-on learning activities. For more information click here, or contact Emily Warrington.

2/14: RIT Girls in STEM Fair Essay Contest
For the second time, the RIT Girls in STEM Fair is offering an essay contest. Girls in grades 5-12 may enter by responding to the certain prompt questions. Your essay must be under the word limit noted for your grade level. A panel of RIT Women in STEM and RIT K-12 team members will judge essays. Please contact Olivia Manske with any questions.

2/18: Annual GRASA February Summit, Rochester, NY
The 7th Annual GRASA February Summit will take place on Tuesday, February 18, 2020, from 8:30 am to 5:00 pm, at East High School. This year, all afterschool /OST staff will attend one mandated session on the new SEL (Social-Emotional Learning) PQA tool that our community will be shifting to this spring. Then, each of you can choose two more sessions from a growing list including hands-on STEM, SEL and self-care. Click here to take a look at the agenda/registration form.
2/20: Design & Manage a Quality Mentoring Program, Buffalo, NY
For professionals interested in developing a mentoring program, this comprehensive session will provide the necessary tools and information to launch and sustain an effective youth mentoring program. Covered in this training will be the industry’s nationally accepted best practice standards for the development of youth mentoring programs that have proven effective in a wide range of existing mentoring strategies. To register, click here.

2/21: The Best Babysitter is a Safe Sitter, Hudson, NY
Safe sitter is a medically accurate, hands-on class that teaches boys and girls ages 11 to 14 how to handle emergencies when caring for children. Safe Sitters will learn a variety of things from what to do when a child chokes to how to entertain children. If you are interested in joining the class, registration closes February 14th. For more information, or to register, click here.

2/29: Community-Wide Basketball League, Rochester, NY
Rochester Community Centers is looking for players and coaches for their Community-Wide Basketball League. Running from 2/29 - 4/28, games will run from 10am-2pm. There will be 3 age divisions: Pee-Wee (6-9), Juniors (10-12), and Seniors (13-15). For more information, call 585.428.7592, or visit www.cityofrochester.gov/cwbbl.

It's time to start planning your trip to the nation's capital for the annual National Anti-Hunger Policy Conference. Join 1,200+ of your colleagues for what is sure to be the anti-hunger community's biggest and best conference yet. Click here to register.

Join over 2,000 community members 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 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.

Enrollment for the 2020 National Bilingual Bee & Biliteracy Competition is now open! The competition is open to any bi-literate students fluent in English and one of the following languages: Arabic, French, Haitian Creole, Mandarin Chinese, or Spanish. To enroll click here. If you have questions please contact mirta@smartcoos.com.

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