Kaya Weidman, Policy Corner, and More!
February 19, 2020

Schools Out Make it Count! 2020 Annual Conference Awards
Kaya Weidman, Executive Director, Kite's Nest
Recipient of the 2020 Award for Program Excellence and Innovation

From now until the School's Out Make it Count! 2020 Annual Conference, we will be spotlighting our 2020 Award Recipients. This is the second year we have decided to give out awards to individuals in the field based on continued excellence and the high-levels of quality they offer to their program and/or field.

After reviewing several nomination letters, we selected two individual/programs each to receive one of the following awards: The Quality Leadership Award, Award for Exemplary Professionalism, Regional Network Leader Award, Champion Award, and of course, Program Award for Excellence and Innovation.

Without further adieu, congratulations to Kaya Weidman, Executive Director and Co-Founder of Kite's Nest, for receiving the 2020 Award for Excellence and Innovation.

Kaya began working in the field as a teen mentor to younger girls at the age of 13. She then continued to pursue a career within the field after high school when she earned her first job at an afterschool and summer learning program in Boston, MA. Kaya says she decided to pursue a career in this field though her love of education, of which she said, "I literally read pedagogy theory for fun as a tween." She brought her love for education with her when starting Kite's Nest, and designed the program with the goal to "strengthen the
power of communities by nurturing youth leadership and providing powerful and wonderful learning environments for young people."

Currently, Kaya finds herself particularly invested in a healing-centered engagement approach to developing youth leadership. At Kite's Nest they "work to build pathways for young people to become educators, activists, environmental justice leaders, growers, artists, political organizers, leaders of organizations and agencies and anything else they feel passionate about." She also takes pride in their summer-long Social Justice Leadership Academy. A program that "continues throughout the school year in the form of a weekly teen community space on Friday nights, called 'Space', where teens explore just about everything including big social justice issues like racism, immigrant rights, housing justice and LGBTQ identities and get to do things like produce music, poetry, cooking, fashion, herbalism, podcasting and film production."

Beyond the numerous benefits of afterschool Kaya listed that keep her dedicated to the field, she finds pleasure in "witnessing young people grow." She further stated that the best part of her day is when "the kids get off the bus and run to my office to interrupt what I'm doing and tell me about their day."

You can join Kaya and other afterschool professionals at our 2-day School's Out Make it Count! 2020 Annual Conference by registering on our website here.

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**What's Great in Our State**

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”.

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 attached nomination form includes more detail about each category.

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

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**Help Save Federal Afterschool Funding**

Stand up for afterschool! Last week President Trump proposed a budget plan that would eliminate afterschool and summer learning programs for 1.7 million young people.
Tell your members of Congress to protect the programs America’s children and families rely on.

Policymakers in the House and Senate have the power to decide whether local afterschool and summer learning programs will remain open or close their doors. Your advocacy has saved 21st Century Community Learning Centers before: can we count on you again?

Tell Congress to protect afterschool programs. Take action now.

#ILoveAfterschool2020 Wrap Up

Our Valentine’s Day #ILoveAfterschool2020 Campaign which ran between January 14th and February 14th, came to its end last Friday. The campaign gave the Network the chance to gather a bunch of #ILoveAfterschool2020 templates filled out by afterschool professionals and participants from across the state. We posted them on all our Facebook and Twitter in an attempt to reach folks in our great state and show them why afterschool is so important to so many people. Thank you to all who participated. We can't wait to see more next year! If you would like to see said pictures and posts click on the links above to view our social media.

Network for Youth Success Events

3/4/20 - 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, East Greenbush, NY
The Network, in conjunction with our Capital Region Network (CRELO), 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 one of New York State's largest conferences dedicated to afterschool with our Annual School's Out, Make it Count! Conference. Don't wait, sign up today! 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 & 8/25/2020: 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

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.

2/29: 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/cwbb.

2/29: RCSD ROC Restorative Esteemed: Claiming Sacred Spaces for Girls of Color, Rochester, NY
Join keynote speaker Jackie Campbell, Alliance Director, ROC the Future, for a panel discussion with girls of color honoring their current experiences, followed by an opportunity to participate interactive workshops focused on claiming sacred spaces for girls of color. Click here to register.

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. Send 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

4/17: Decolonizing Minds: Forging a New Future Through Multicultural Education, Rochester, NY
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. 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.

❤️ 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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