School's Out, Make it Count! Award Recipient

Joan E. Hunt, Project Director, Greater Hudson Promise Neighborhood
Recipient of the 2020 Regional Network Leader Award

This week's spotlight will feature an individual in the field who has displayed continued excellence and high-levels of quality within the field. They work tirelessly to improve the situation of afterschool, summer, and/or expanded learning programs within their site, and across their region.

Without further adieu, congratulations to Joan Hunt, Project Director, Greater Hudson Promise Neighborhood, the recipient of the 2020 Regional Network Leader Award.

Joan is a hard working individual, who since entering the field in 2011 has really made a difference. Joan's generous and open-hearted leadership has allowed our Columbia County Regional Network, HOST, (Hudson Out of School Time Collaborative) to grow and thrive. From their origins as a working committee of a Promise Neighborhood grant application process to a 24-member collective Joan has been with them.

Currently Joan is the Project Director of the Greater Hudson Promise Neighborhood. The early work of the Promise Neighborhood involved convening 6 working groups and engaging stakeholders from across our community in conversations and planning on how to build a seamless pipeline of supports from cradle to career. One of those working groups was titled "Transitions to Adulthood." This group included many dedicated out-of-school time providers that wanted to continue meeting beyond the planning year. This group morphed into the "Out-of-School Time" Action Team and from this group HOST was born. In 2015 they joined the Network as the 10th Regional Network.
Joan’s organization (GHPN) would like to highlight the Greater Hudson Initiative for Children of Incarcerated Parents. 1 in 28 children in America have an incarcerated parent and the mission of their initiative is to "support children impacted by incarceration through education, programming and policy changes that strengthen families and our community."

When asked what she loves about her job, Joan answered, "I feel so privileged to be working with such amazing partners and the youth and families within our program. From the HOST perspective, my favorite part of being in this role is seeing our coordination efforts at work."

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**STEM Corner - OurEcho Challenge**

The OurEcho Challenge is a STEM innovation competition that empowers U.S. middle school students (grades 5-9) to take a closer look at biodiversity in their communities. Students will first identify threats to local ecosystems and then propose solutions to help preserve, protect, or repair those natural resources. 10 finalist teams will join EarthEcho International in Washington, DC, where they will present their ideas to restore or protect local biodiversity. The top three teams will be awarded grants to turn their projects into a reality.

Learn more about the OurEcho Challenge and access biodiversity resources at [www.ourechochallenge.org](http://www.ourechochallenge.org).

*Applications are due by March 22, 2020.*

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**NAA Summer to Discover 2020 Guide**

Somehow summer is almost here and that means the school year is drawing to an end. However, afterschool professionals and programs continue to play a crucial role in keeping kids learning, safe, and healthy. Check out NAA's Summer to Discover 2020 guide, which is full of resources, top product picks and discounts from NAA Advocate members, and valued partners that will make your program shine! Click on the image to view the guide.

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**NAA Convention 2020 is Going Virtual**

The NAA board and staff have closely watched the developing situation around the COVID-19 virus and the recent diagnosis at the site of their upcoming Convention. With
They do not want to jeopardize anyone's ability to do their work. They realize that communities, families, school partners—and youth themselves—depend on said members to keep them safe and provide services—even during times of challenge and crisis. For these reasons, the NAA board voted unanimously to move NAA Convention 2020 to a virtual platform. In addition, the Afterschool for All Challenge, hosted by the Afterschool Alliance to advocate for the 21st Century Community Learning Centers (21st CCLC) Program with Congress, will also take place virtually. For more information click here.

Updated OCFS Resources

The Office of Child and Family Services (OCFS) has updated the following resources on their webpage. The date updated is placed after the bullet point.

- (2/6) Dear Provider Letter - Coronavirus
- (2/7) Dear Provider Letter - Policy Changes for Licensed and Registered Providers
- (2/7) Dear Provider Letter - Policy Changes for Legally Exempt Providers
- (2/7) 20-OCFS-INF-06 - Major regulatory revisions
- (1/13) 20-OCFS-INF-02 - Safety related background checks
- (2/11) Frequently Asked Questions - Licensed and Registered Providers
- (2/11) Frequently Asked Questions - Legally Exempt Providers

For additional information, visit their website here.

Network for Youth Success Events

5/7: Free Director Training, Albany, NY
The Network for Youth Success in partnership with the Capital Region Expanded Learning Opportunities (CRELO) Regional Network will be providing its last Director Training in the Capital Region. For more information, click here.

Registration closes TOMORROW! 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: 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

3/12: Expanding Access to Summer Meals for NY Kids and Teens, Webinar
Join this webinar from 1:00 - 2:00 PM EST to learn about the Summer Food Service Program (SFSP), and how you can help grow participation and increase site availability in underserved areas to ensure kids get the meals they need this summer. To register click here.

3/18: NAA Convention 2020 and the Afterschool for All Challenge, Virtual
The Afterschool for All Challenge, hosted by the Afterschool Alliance to advocate for the 21st Century Community Learning Centers (21st CCLC) Program with Congress, will take place virtually on March 18th. Join them by emailing your representatives to let them know why 21st CCLC programs are important to you! Invite them out to visit your site and see your program in action. Join now.

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.

3/31: Summer Leaning Toolkit & Recruiting and Engaging Students, Webinar
Join the Afterschool Alliance to access resources and strategies that could help you communicate with families and prepare them to show up ready for the first day - and keep them coming back to your program throughout the summer. For more information, or to register, click here.

4/8: Engaging Youth, Not Managing Youth! Webinar
In this webinar explore proactive strategies and concrete techniques to engage youth and keep them engaged. While proactive approaches are preferable, you will also take a look at a few strategies to help you respond to challenging behaviors. As we know from experience, it is always good to have a variety of tools in your toolbox. For more information or to register, click here.

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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