School's Out, Make it Count! Award Recipients

Elena and Gregory Mosley, Operation Unite New York Inc
Recipients of the 2020 Exemplary Award of Professionalism

This week’s spotlight will feature two individuals within the field who have worked directly with youth for at least two years, have an inclusive understanding of the developmental needs of children and families, and are committed to professional growth. Elena and Gregory Mosley are two individuals who checked off all the former boxes and more, so without further adieu, congratulations to Elena and Gregory, recipients of the 2020 Exemplary Award of Professionalism.

It all started in the early 1990s when Elena and Gregory first noticed a tremendous need for activities that infused the arts and were open to all genders. From this realization, Elena and Gregory along with some grassroots community folks started Operation Unite New York in Hudson to provide youth experiences in the arts, literacy, and organized sports. However, it wasn't until they were able to hire high school students that they really began to see the disparity of education among under-resourced youth and the lack of role models in the schools and community businesses. They believed then, as they do now that the arts are a necessary component of building blocks that support youth and allow them to achieve academically, vocationally, and socially within their community.

Now fast-forward some 20+ years to the present where Elena and Gregory have made a tremendous impact in the Hudson region. For 20+ years they have been elevating the standard of community engagement and youth work through Operation Unite’s many programs. These programs run both cultural and academic supports for youth and
families. All of which focus on excellence in academics, service to community, honoring of culture, and dedication to professionalism.

When asked about their favorite part of their job, Elena answered, "My favorite part of my job is witnessing the growth of participants. Sometimes it is the growth of a child being introduced to the arts and watching them discover their bodies in motion or hands playing an instrument. Sometimes it is the teenager learning how to be the support person for the younger reader. I really tear up when I see the then shy, unorganized, sometimes goofy kid walking across the graduation stage. It is as if I blinked and opened my eyes to see the polished leader reach for his/her diploma at graduation. I try to hold back my tears as they skip off to college."

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**CACFP Corner - National CACFP Week**

This week is a national education and information campaign on the Child and Adult Care Food Program held annually on the third week of March (15-21) by the National CACFP Sponsors Association. The campaign is designed to raise awareness of how the USDA's Child and Adult Care Food Program works to combat hunger. The CACFP brings healthy foods to tables across the country for children in child care centers, homes, and afterschool programs as well as adults in day care.

If your program isn't already enrolled, CACFP is a federally funded nutrition program through which eligible afterschool programs can claim reimbursement for serving healthy meals and/or snacks to youth ages 18 and younger.

The current reimbursement rates for CACFP’s At-Risk Afterschool Snack/Supper component are $3.41 per meal or $.94 per snack served. Over time, that adds up! If you serve 100 students a snack and a meal each school day for a month, your program could be eligible for up to $8,700 in reimbursement!

For more information, [click here](#)!

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**Zoom Etiquette**

With life becoming more and more virtual due to the outbreak of COVID-19 aka Coronavirus, platforms like Zoom are going to be used more frequently. Take a minute to view this article outlining the do's and don'ts of a zoom call. [Click here](#) to read more.
COVID-19 Resources

Please see the attached documents released by OCFS in response to the growing concern around COVID-19. Take a moment to read this information and familiarize yourself with the content. All of these documents will be posted on the OCFS website and translated if needed.

- COVID-19 FAQ for Child Care Providers
- How to Navigate Meal and Snack Programs
- Dear Provider Letter
- Guidance for Parents Seeking Child Care
- Posting for Staff and Visitors

Information regarding COVID-19 is evolving rapidly. You and your programs can stay informed by checking the NYS Department of Health and/or Afterschool Alliance websites regularly for updates.

Network for Youth Success Events

The Network for Youth Success has closely monitored developments of the COVID-19 virus and has made the exciting decision to go virtual! This is not a result of any direct incident, but rather because the health and safety of our participants, presenters, vendors, and volunteers is of paramount importance to us. Registration is still open for one more day, sign up today and earn training hours!

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

3/18: Serving Students School Meals During COVID-19, Webinar
Join SNA, USDA, and FRAC at 2:00 PM today for the latest updates on guidelines for serving students school meals when schools are closed or dismissed. School nutrition operators will also provide practical ideas for how to provide meals to students in partnership with their communities, state agencies, and other partners. To sign up, click here.

Out-of-school time program providers and non-school meal sponsors can work collaboratively with districts to ensure access to meals when schools are closed or dismissed. Join this webinar to hear the latest updates on guidelines and opportunities for providing meals during COVID-19 for out-of-school time programs. To sign up, click here.

3/20: Promoting Equity Through SEL Assessment, Webinar
Schools and out-of-school-time programs throughout the country have committed to ensuring educational equity. We strongly believe that high-quality assessment of social-emotional competence is essential to these efforts. This webinar will explore the critical role of SEL assessment in equity efforts exploring both theoretical considerations and practical applications. In addition, a new approach to identifying and addressing implicit bias will be presented. Sign up here.

3/26: SEL Assessment that are Rigorous, Reasonable, and Relevant, Webinar
In this webinar, leading experts from Aperture Education, Kickboard, and xSEL Labs will facilitate a conversation to address this practice knowledge gap. Participants will be provided the necessary information and tools to make better, informed decisions about SEL assessment. For more information, click here.

3/31: Summer Learning 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.

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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