School's Out, Make it Count! Award Recipients

Sue Veres Royal, Executive Director, ACE Mentor Program of Greater NY

Recipients of the 2020 Quality Leadership Award

Thank you to everyone who joined us Friday and Saturday during the School's Out, Make it Count! Virtual Conference. For the next couple weeks we will be spotlighting the rest of our award recipients to recognize their hard work that has both progressed the field and inspired those within it.

This week's spotlight will feature an individual within the field who has five or more years of experience in administration, has a deep understanding of the critical value of afterschool programs provide, and has made significant contributions to the field. Sue Veres Royal is an individual who has checked off all the former boxes and more, so without further adieu, congratulations to Sue Veres Royal, recipient of the 2020 Quality Leadership Award.

Sue has been involved in educational nonprofits throughout her career and believes students need opportunities outside of school. She believes these opportunities give youth the chance to pursue their passion and learn about future career opportunities.

Currently, Sue is the Executive Director of the ACE Mentor Program of Greater NY (ACEGNY). ACEGNY is the founding affiliate of the ACE Mentor Program of America, a 74-affiliate network, that reaches over 10,000 students in more than 25 states, Puerto Rico, and Canada. Since taking the lead at ACEGNY in 2016, Sue has transformed the
affiliate in variety of ways. After undertaking a much-needed strategic planning process and reinvigorating board committees, Sue was able to lead an overhaul of ACEGNY’s fundraising metrics and evaluation tools, and develop important partnerships with local agencies, including the NYC Department of Education.

In the first year of the ACEGNY strategic plan implementation, under Sue’s leadership, the affiliate grew to 49 teams, registered 1600 students and had 1100 complete the program. They also started an Alumni internship program, a professional development program for their mentors/volunteers and a senior night where students heard from alumni about what to expect in engineering and architecture school.

Sue is truly a quality leader and exemplifies greatness in the field. When asked about her favorite part of her job, Sue replied, "Meeting with students who did not know what they wanted to do prior to joining the ACE Mentor Program. Many students have told me that in ACE they found what they want to do with their life as they find the field both interesting, and more importantly to them, they see it as a way to help their community."

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. We will be updating this section of the newsletter every week with new materials.

- (3/23) COVID-19 FAQ for Child Care Providers
- (3/23) Guidance for Providers on the Background Check Waiver Process
- (3/23) Emergency Employment Attestation for Adults
- (3/23) Request for Waiver
- (3/21) Dear Provider Letter
- (3/19) How to Navigate Meal and Snack Programs
- (3/19) Guidance for Parents Seeking Child Care
- (3/19) 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.

Play at Home

Our friends from Playworks are offering free "Play at Home Resources." Check them out below!

- Play at Home Webpage: A library of videos and other resources featuring games and activities families can play at home.
• **Play at Home Playbook:** This game guide has a variety of games and activities families can do in their own home, with little to no equipment necessary.

• **Live Virtual Recess:** A Playworks Coach leading a morning warm-up, a midday game, and an afternoon cooldown each day. Anyone can tune into Facebook Live Monday- Friday at 12pm, 2pm, and 4pm EST and play along. See a sample on YouTube.

---

**QSA Corner**

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 tips for integrating self-assessment into your daily program practices, 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.

---

**Network for Youth Success Events**

**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.

**10/3: Regional Rochester Training Institute, Fairport, NY**
Save the date! Join the Network for Youth Success for a day of high-quality professional development that includes six OCFS training hours on a variety of topics that is appropriate for supervisors, teachers, and front line staff working with school-age children. Don't miss out on this great opportunity to develop your career and network with other like minded individuals! Stay tuned for more information.
Other Events

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 National AfterSchool Association 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.

4/21-23: Literacy for Frontline Staff, Virtual Series
Students’ ability to read, write, speak, and listen effectively is critical to their success in school and beyond. These literacy skills lay the foundation for other academic and 21st century skills. In this three-part webinar series, the U.S. Department of Education’s Y4Y Technical Assistance (TA) Team will share strategies for supporting frontline staff in assessing and improving 21st CCLC literacy initiatives. Site leaders and other participants will improve their understanding of the key components of literacy and take away research-based literacy activities geared toward building 21st century skills like collaboration and critical thinking. Register 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:
New York State Network for Youth Success, Inc.
415 River Street
Troy, NY 12180