Spotlight: Benefits of the NYS SAC Credential

Katiuska Morel, Director and Owner of Larimar Community Center After School Program, earned her credential in 2019. Below you will see questions Katiuska was asked regarding the NYS SAC Credential course and her responses.

1. **Why did you take the SAC Credential Course?** : I wanted to evolve my program to accurately cater to the needs of the children in this community. In taking this course, I was able to apply methods of teaching that help students develop the necessary skills to reach their educational goals and thus help their parents at the same time.

2. **What did you learn about children by taking the course?** : From taking the course, I learned that children are always willing to learn something new. It is on us who have afterschool programs to nurture that curiosity in fun and creative ways that are inclusive.

3. **What did you learn about families by taking the course?** : Taking this course helped me plan activities that involved the help of the parents. It is critical to the development and success of a child that their family members be involved. It creates a feeling of support. It creates good memories and motivation to actively learn in and out of school. Children are more likely to feel comfortable exploring new lessons and trying new experiences when they have the support of their families. For example, asking parents if there are traditions they have in their household that they can showcase for us with their child or planning a family yoga class. Parents also feel more involved when we work with their schedule to make sure we include them in their child’s educational career. This includes not only activities but also creating a channel of connection between them and their child’s teachers and so much more.
4. **What did you learn about supporting staff by taking the course:** By the end of the course, I had a game plan in which my staff would be trained in order to provide the highest quality care for the children of the afterschool program. I decided to do the training with them (even if I had already done them) so that they would know that we were a team. I also involved them with activity planning and asked them questions on how we can improve the program. I wanted to make it known that we were a team that needed to be prepared for anything, provide quality help, and teach the students effectively. But I also needed them to remember that we are in the business of working with children, and children need support and need to be able to enjoy what they learn and do and have fun at the same time.

5. **What did you learn about quality programming by taking the course:** I learned that quality programming is to provide a safer, more inclusive, and more well-rounded approach to providing care for the students. While I believed I knew how to provide quality programming, the course taught me how to make it better. I added even more books, included a circle session with the children, and asked them what activities they wanted to learn or do. I trained with my staff and included them in the program development. I made sure to update the regulations and keep my staff in the know. I added the opinions of the parents and what they wanted their children to learn while maintaining boundaries. I even involved local businesses that deal with wellness activities so that children can see successful people who look like them. Because of this course, I was able to improve the quality of my program and it has given me more success.

6. **If and why would you recommend the course to others:** I would recommend the course to others because it gives you a better understanding of how to run a business, handle staff, stay up-to-date on regulations, and how to teach and support students who need it. It is an enriching experience for anyone looking to better their business and their afterschool programs.

7. **Did you receive any additional benefits from your place of employment (promotion, raise, etc.) from taking the course?** The benefit that came with taking this course was that I was about to get more parents to bring their children here because the quality of my program grew. Therefore I made more money.

8. **Is there anything else you would like to share:** The SAC Credential gave me an opportunity to learn how to better run my business and give back to my community.

Is your program working hard to offer quality services to your community? Let us know about it by filling out a [quick questionnaire](https://mail.google.com/mail/u/0?ik=9eab5ba277&view=pt&search=all&permmsgid=msg-f%3A1675465673513278607&simpl=msg-f%3A16754656735) and we will spotlight your program in an upcoming newsletter.
New York State School-Age Care Credential DL Classes Starting in September!

Register Now For Distance Learning

Looking for a way to meet the educational requirements to be a site director at a school-age program? Looking for a way to "build your bench?"

The New York State School-Age Care Credential will help you meet these needs! Throughout the course, you’ll learn how to meet children’s needs and reduce challenging behaviors, all while gaining confidence in yourself as a professional.

The course can either be taken in-person at a local Host Agency or through our distance learning option. During the course, you’ll work with a trained advisor who will help to ensure your success in the program and will work with you to advance your skills and expertise as an afterschool practitioner. You’ll work with your instructor and advisor to further develop your knowledge in the 14 skill areas: professionalism, child development, safety, health, out-of-school environments, physical, cognitive, communication, creative, self, social, guidance, families, and operational program managements.

Distance Learning begins September 15, 2020 Register Here!

Scholarship funding to participate in this training may be available through the Educational Incentive Program (EIP). For more information or to apply for a scholarship, please visit www.ecetp.pdp.albany.edu. You may also contact EIP at eip@albany.edu or 800-295-9616. If you have received an EIP scholarship, please sign it and mail it to the Network along with your registration.

For more information, check out the attached flyer, go to our webpage, or contact Erin at 518.694.0660 or Erin@NetworkforYouthSuccess.org

COVID & Afterschool Survey

Keep up the story of how COVID-19 is affecting afterschool and summer programs: Throughout June, the Afterschool Alliance asked you to share your story of how COVID-19 has impacted afterschool and summer programs and the young people and families who rely on them to keep kids safe and engaged in learning. Nearly 1,000 programs stepped up and completed the survey! The findings are now being shared with federal policymakers – right in the midst of important decisions about federal funding. Starting last week, the Afterschool Alliance and the National Summer Learning Association are teaming up to ask you to keep the story up to date by completing a follow-up survey that focuses on what programming you’ve been able to offer this summer and what your plans are for fall. The survey should take no more than 10-15 minutes of your time and your responses will be anonymous. To thank you for your time, 50 respondents to the survey will be randomly selected to win a $50 cash prize. Thank you for sharing information about your afterschool and summer programs! Start the survey at https://3to6.co/survey. If you need assistance completing the survey, please contact Lydia Redway at redway@edgeresearch.com. If you would like more information about the research, please contact Nikki Yamashiro at nyamashiro@afterschoolalliance.org.

CACFP Corner: Afterschool Meal Program
The Afterschool Meal Program fills the hunger gap that may exist afterschool for millions of low-income children. The program, offered through the Child and Adult Care Food Program (CACFP), provides federal funding to afterschool programs operating in a low-income area to serve meals and snacks. The importance of afterschool meals and snacks has become ever more apparent. Know that there is reimbursement funding for meals and snacks offered through CACFP that your afterschool program may be eligible for.

The Mind Online

Exercise your ears and sharpen your brain with The Mind Online, hosted by Teaching Tolerance Managing Editor Monita Bell. Through conversations with teachers, librarians, scholars and reporters, Monita explores the critical aspects of digital literacy that shape how we create and consume content online. Discover what educators and students alike need to know—and how we can all become safer, better informed digital citizens.

Network for Youth Success Events

9/23: Fall SAC Credential Course (VIRTUAL), Capital District
The New York State Network for Youth Success administers the New York State School Age Care (SAC) Credential, which promotes quality services to children and families by providing specific standards, training, and evaluation for afterschool professionals. You must live in the Capital Region to sign up for this course. **Click here to register.** For more information email asalamonepowers@cdymca.org.

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.**

Our Annual Conference will be held on April 23rd & 24th, 2021. Be ready for two full days of trainings on a wide variety of topics, various vendors, awards, networking, and more! Stay tuned for more information.

Other Events
8/19: Why Educator SEL is Critical This School Year
In this webinar, they'll discuss why educator social-emotional development is so important -- especially this school year. They'll provide actionable strategies to help you support your own SEL, ideas for how to approach your administrators regarding educator SEL, and research to help you advocate for this important topic. To register, [click here](#).

8/20: Inventing Tomorrow
WXXI Education invites you to this special, virtual training to explore the film and education materials connected to *Inventing Tomorrow*! This virtual educator training will provide clips of the film, an overview of new curricular materials created to support the film, free science materials for your classroom, and time to learn about how these environmental issues and problem solving strategies connect to your students. Gary Abud, Jr., Michigan Teacher of the Year for 2014, and a very special guest associated with the film will join! For more information, or to register [click here](#).

8/20: Expanding Access to Afterschool Meals and Snacks During COVID-19
While the school day and afterschool programming may look different for many students this year due to COVID-19, the Afterschool Nutrition Programs remain an important opportunity to provide nutritious suppers and snacks. Join FRAC and the Afterschool Alliance for this webinar which will cover the most up-to-date information on the Afterschool Nutrition Program flexibilities, an update on the afterschool program response during the pandemic, and things to consider when planning for this school year. To register, [click here](#).

8/27: Positive Youth Development (PYD) Reading Club
Join the Positive Youth Development Reading Club for another session of the PYD Reading Group. They are inviting youth work professionals affiliated to NYS 4-H, Youth Bureaus and the NYS Network for Youth Success. To register, [click here](#).

10/22: Lights on Afterschool
Take part in 21st annual Lights on Afterschool to reflect, celebrate, and call attention to the afterschool programs that are so critical to youth and families. It's been a hard year, and Lights On will look very different this year. There are new ways for everyone to take part. Even if you are not doing a typical event, register! There will be new offerings and developments that all can take part in, no matter your circumstances or operating status. Afterschool programs are rising to the moment to support youth and families during the pandemic — from innovative virtual programming to meals to caring for children of essential workers to wellbeing check-ins. We need to celebrate and recognize your efforts, and call attention to the importance of afterschool supports as our nation moves ahead. For more information or to register, [click here](#).

Fall 2020 (Multiple Dates): Core Body of Knowledge Virtual Training Series
Explore how the CBK is to be used as the foundation for professional preparation and development of New York's early childhood workforce and how it fits into the broader scope of training and coaching protocols. The CBK can provide a framework for supervisors and trainers to evaluate performance of individual staff and support the planning of professional development to ensure that it is intentional and relevant to the strengths, interests, and needs of each teacher. The session will include a review of materials; small group discussions; and hands-on, interactive activities to help trainers develop meaningful professional development opportunities. To register, [click here](#).

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**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](#).
For regular updated resources regarding COVID-19 check out our COVID-19 Resource Page.

Remove my name from all future mass email communications:

Address postal inquiries to:
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