Spotlight: Congratulations to Kelly Sturgis!
The Network's Executive Director Has Been Named to City & State's "Power 100 in Education" List

Please join us in congratulating our fearless leader, Kelly Sturgis, for being named #84 on the "Power 100 in Education" List by City & State. For more than five years, Kelly has guided the Network, and we're thrilled she has been recognized for her dynamic statewide leadership on afterschool issues.

“It has been a pleasure to work alongside Kelly during my time in the legislature and years as Chair of the Senate Education Committee. Kelly is a fierce advocate for our schools, children and families, and has built a record of success delivering for them year after year. I look forward to continuing to work together with Kelly and the NYS Network for Youth Success.”

State Senator Shelley B. Mayer,
Chair of the Senate Education Committee.

Kelly has championed afterschool, before school, and summer learning programs, which provide a safe, supervised environment for children, as well as homework help, physical activities, and social-emotional support. Her work to secure state and federal budget funding for these initiatives has enhanced access to expanded learning programs for families in underserved communities throughout New York. Kelly also coordinated statewide efforts to...
provide on-site and virtual programming for the children of essential workers through the pandemic. She is a lead advocate for community schools and works to enhance child nutrition, family engagement, STEM, and juvenile justice programs.

“Kelly does phenomenal work on behalf of New York’s children and I am happy to see her recognized with this incredibly well-deserved honor. I am grateful for her partnership and guidance in all things afterschool and look forward to continuing to work together.”

Assemblymember Andrew Hevesi, Chair of the Children and Families Committee.

Before joining the New York State Network for Youth Success, Kelly Sturgis rose through the ranks at YMCAs in Schenectady and Albany. Her extensive experience with extracurricular enrichment for kids now informs her leadership at the Network for Youth Success.

“I am thrilled to see Kelly receive this well-deserved honor. Since joining the Network for Youth Success, she has worked tirelessly on behalf of children, communities, and expanded learning programs in New York. She is truly a dedicated leader in education policy. We are proud to have her directing our team.”

Kyle Stewart, Executive Director of the Alliance of NYS YMCAs and Board Chair of the Network for Youth Success.

Congratulations, Kelly!
To access the full 2021 Education Power 100 list, click here.

2021 Next Generation of Afterschool Leaders: National AfterSchool Association Honors Four New Yorkers

The Network is proud to announce that the following four afterschool leaders have been selected from New York as part of the National AfterSchool Association’s (NAA) 2021 Next Generation of Afterschool Leaders:

**Grace Kelly**  
Assistant Director SummerLEAP at Brockport  
SUNY Brockport | Brockport, New York

**Joshua LoGiudice**  
Site Director  
Capital District YMCA | Guilderland, New York

**Kristina Muffoletto**  
COO, ASE School Counselor  
LE3 INC | Williamsville, New York

**Miriam Montes**  
Program Manager  
Boys and Girls Club of the Capital Area | Albany, New York

In selecting its 2021 Next Generation of Afterschool Leaders, NAA sought to highlight emerging young leaders who are active in the broader afterschool community, demonstrate contributions that have started to influence beyond individual programs to entire organizations and communities, are actively engaged in efforts to elevate the afterschool field, have a proven passion for development of themselves and others, and demonstrate persistence in their work to grow as leaders. Honorees will be profiled in the Spring 2021 issue of NAA’s AfterSchool Today magazine. Upon publication, a digital edition of the magazine may be viewed here.

"The National AfterSchool Association knows that strong afterschool leaders develop the skilled professionals and teams that run strong organizations and quality programs that
result in positive youth outcomes," said Gina Warner, President and CEO of NAA. "These emerging leaders will help shape the next generation of the afterschool field."

Please join the Network in extending our congratulations to Grace, Joshua, Kristina, and Miriam for this well deserved honor.

The full list of honorees can be found [here](https://mail.google.com/mail/u/0?ik=9eab5ba277&view=pt&search=all&permmsgid=msg-f%3A1691317395130779662&simpl=msg-f%3A1691317395130779662&szst=1&attid=0).

**Program Spotlight**

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%3A1691317395130779662&simpl=msg-f%3A1691317395130779662&szst=1&attid=0) and we will spotlight your program in an upcoming newsletter.

**Afterschool Advocacy Week Recap**

The Network would like to thank our partners who helped make January’s virtual Advocacy Week a success. We kicked off our Afterschool Advocacy Week with a virtual rally that featured vibrant participation from legislators, students, parents, afterschool professionals, and other supporters of afterschool, summer, and expanded learning.

Several afterschool advocates also met with key legislators to educate them about the impact of afterschool programs on New York’s families and children. We followed up with a Tweetstorm to further engage our legislators about the need for continued investments in these programs.

![Afterschool is essential to New York's fight against COVID-19.](image)

**MISSED OUR AFTERSCHOOL RALLY?** You can view a recording of the rally [here](https://mail.google.com/mail/u/0?ik=9eab5ba277&view=pt&search=all&permmsgid=msg-f%3A1691317395130779662&simpl=msg-f%3A1691317395130779662&szst=1&attid=0).

Even though our Afterschool Advocacy Week is over, our fight for afterschool programs has only begun. As trusted partners, afterschool, summer, and expanded learning programs have long provided a safe space and environment for children to be cared for and high-quality supplemental education to mitigate learning loss, while helping parents balance work and family. At this critical moment, we know that afterschool is an essential part of New York’s response to COVID-19 and towards recovery, and needs to be adequately equipped to serve New York's family and children.

Here are a few ways you can join us in our continued advocacy efforts:

- Review our [2021 Afterschool Budget Priorities and additional advocacy resources](https://mail.google.com/mail/u/0?ik=9eab5ba277&view=pt&search=all&permmsgid=msg-f%3A1691317395130779662&simpl=msg-f%3A1691317395130779662&szst=1&attid=0).

- Join our State of Afterschool update calls to keep informed about afterschool and New York State Budget updates.
Join in Celebrating Black History Month

Continuing the work towards making afterschool and summer a more equitable and inclusive environment, we take time to celebrate and recognize **February as Black History Month**. In honor of all equity work happening throughout this country, we must do our part to understand the weight of the racial injustice occurring currently, and throughout history.

In recognition of Black History Month, NPR has released a compilation of resources ranging from podcasts about Black visionaries to a trivia night on pop culture. Check it out [here](http://bit.ly/3o90va2).

Additional educational resources can be found through other national partners:

- **How Black Lives Matter is Changing Black History Month**
- **Black History Month Lessons and Resources**
- **Black History Month Resource Guide for Educators and Families**

You can also access the Network for Youth Success’ [racial equity webpage](https://mail.google.com/mail/u/0?ik=9eab5ba277&view=pt&search=all&permmsgid=msg-f%3A1691317395130779662&simpI=msg-f%3A1691317395130779662), which houses a 2020 equity report and our own letter on equity issued just last year.

American Camp Association Town Hall

The American Camp Association (ACA) recently hosted a Town Hall meeting focused on developments regarding COVID-19 planning for summer camps. Resources from the town hall are available at the links below:

- Town Hall Meeting Recording
- Town Hall Meeting Slide Deck and Handouts
- CDC Suggestions for Youth Programs and Camps: Readiness and Planning Tool

Additionally, the ACA Field Guide for Camps has been updated and revised for Summer 2021. A new [Vaccine Chapter](https://mail.google.com/mail/u/0?ik=9eab5ba277&view=pt&search=all&permmsgid=msg-f%3A1691317395130779662&simpI=msg-f%3A1691317395130779662) has been added to the full downloadable Field Guide.
Network for Youth Success Events

Feb. 15: Adverse Childhood Experiences (ACEs) and Engineering Design Practices Morning Training Session (virtual)

Session 1: Adverse Childhood Experiences (ACEs) and Trauma-Informed Practice in Afterschool. Discover the role that afterschool programs play in helping children survive and thrive after traumatic experiences. Using trauma-informed care research, this workshop will explore how ACEs can affect children's growth and development. Emphasis will be on practices in afterschool, including interactions with children and program development. This workshop is for all afterschool, summer, and expanded learning time staff who want to integrate trauma-informed practices into their programs.

*Meets new OCFS training area, OCFS (10) Adverse childhood experiences, focused on understanding trauma and on nurturing resiliency. CBK 1, 4

Session 2: Engineering Design Practices. What do engineers do? Learn by acting like an engineer! Participants will complete an engineering design challenge in order to learn about the skills and practices of an engineer. Emphasis will be on hands-on activity with easy-to-find materials and the creation and testing of a prototype.

OCFS 3.

These sessions will take place between 8:45am and 12:15pm, for a total of 3 training hours plus breaks. Registration closes FRIDAY, FEB. 12 at 9AM!

Register now.

Feb. 23: Zoom Coffee Chat for New York's Afterschool Program Grantees, CACFP Afterschool Meals Q&A

Join New York State Network for Youth Success, Hunger Solutions New York, and peer grantees for an open discussion about ways afterschool programs can help alleviate hunger, including serving afterschool meals and snacks through the Child and Adult Care Food Program. Bring your questions, share ideas, and learn about new resources and flexibilities available to help connect kids and families with the food they need.

Register now.

Apr. 23-24: School's Out, Make it Count

The Network's annual conference will be held April 23-24, 2021. Be ready for two full days of trainings, vendor exhibits, awards, networking, and more.

View the agenda.

Register now.

Apr. 27: Spring 2021 SAC Credential Course (VIRTUAL), Part 2

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 Spring 2021.

May 12, 19, and 26: Training of Upcoming Trainers
Thinking about earning your Training and Technical Assistance Professional Credential? This spring, we're offering a training workshop that is your opportunity to stop considering and start achieving.

The NYSAEYC Training and Technical Assistance Professional Credential (PD Specialist) formally recognizes the value and specialized knowledge necessary to provide professional development in New York State. This credential is perfect for individuals providing non-credit bearing in-person group professional development (such as the New York State School-Age Care Credential or Click2Science Trainings) on general early childhood and/or school-age content.

In this workshop, we will help you navigate the process of becoming a T-TAP PD Specialist. Over the course of three days, you will learn how to:

- Fill out your intent to apply form,
- Link your training to the NAEYC and NAA trainer competencies, and
- Design a training with adult learning theory in mind.

**Time:** 9:00am-12:00pm *(Participants should attend all three sessions.)*

**Cost:**
- $175 - Current Host Agencies and NYSNYS Click2Science Co-hort
- $300 - All others

**Current Qualifications to Apply for Your T-TAP**

**More Information on the T-TAP**

Have questions? Contact Erin@NetworkForYouthSuccess.Org

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**Other Events**

**Feb. 17-19: Beyond School Hours 2021 National Education Conference (virtual)**

Foundations, Inc is bringing you the great content and high-quality professional learning you expect from Beyond School Hours—adapted for a remote setting! With the new virtual setting, this conference will last all year long. Join for live and exciting professional learning, site visits, and keynotes during the main conference days, and then join for live follow-up webinars for the rest of the year. All webinars are included with conference registration! To register, click here.

**Mid-March: Professional Learning Communities (virtual)**

NAA is offering a new series of **Professional Learning Communities (PLCs)** starting this March. NAA PLCs are a different kind of learning for the here and now. They are designed to inspire meaningful connections where participants join top NAA Convention facilitators and national experts for collaborative 6-8 week guided learning experiences focused on the most important topics in afterschool.

If you're focused on moving forward, strengthening your skills, and connecting with colleagues who understand—then this is an opportunity you do not want to miss.

PLC participants will engage in learning with an intimate cohort of colleagues from across the country. Together, you will gain tools and supports to...

- … discover essential leadership skills.
- … build culturally agile skills to walk the talk of equity and inclusion.
- … strengthen social and emotional learning.
- … practice intentional self-care to be the leader you envision.

Cost: $150 each (includes at least 10 hours of learning and a certificate of completion).

Registration deadline: March 5

These PLC’s are not eligible for OCFS training credit.
To learn more or to register, [click here](https://mail.google.com/mail/u/0?ik=9eab5ba277&view=pt&search=all&permmsgid=msg-f%3A1691317395130779662&simpl=msg-f%3A16913173951787).

**Mar. 9-11: Northeast CAMP Conference (virtual)**
The staff and volunteers who bring you the Tri-State CAMP Conference are pleased to announce the virtual Northeast CAMP Conference. In addition to top-tier speakers and timely sessions, state legislative groups from each of the Northeast states will be providing updates that will be imperative to operating your camp in 2021. These are difficult times for the camp industry and we promise to be with you every step of the journey. To register, [click here](https://mail.google.com/mail/u/0?ik=9eab5ba277&view=pt&search=all&permmsgid=msg-f%3A1691317395130779662&simpl=msg-f%3A16913173951787).

Have questions? Email Samara Feinberg at samara@acanynj.org.

This year's hybrid convening will highlight the great work being done by The School District of Philadelphia. Attendees will have the opportunity to participate in pre-conference sessions, four plenary sessions, over 70 workshops, and more. Content will be organized across the following strands:

- Parent Leadership, Advocacy and Community Organizing
- Promote Inclusion, Ensure Equity and Create Opportunity
- Integrated Systemic Approaches
- Early Learning and Literacy
- Relationship Building and Trust
- Research, Evaluation, and Data Collection

For more information and to register, [click here](https://mail.google.com/mail/u/0?ik=9eab5ba277&view=pt&search=all&permmsgid=msg-f%3A1691317395130779662&simpl=msg-f%3A16913173951787).

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**Quick Ways To Support the Network**

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