Re: Spotlight on STEMfinity, last hours to register for NYSNYS Annual Conference, Afterschool Professionals Appreciation Week, and more

Network Newsletter | April 21, 2021
Spotlight: STEMfinity Afterschool & Summer STEAM Solutions
2021 NextGen Afterschool Leaders
Register for the Network's Annual Conference by NOON TODAY
Update: Passage of New York State 2021-2022 Budget
Leveraging Afterschool to Address Learning Loss
Help Kids Recover
Afterschool Professionals Appreciation Week
Events
Support the Network for Youth Success

Spotlight: STEMfinity Afterschool & Summer STEAM Solutions

- STEM Grants
- STEM 101 Training
- FREE STEM Lessons
- Custom STEM Solutions
- 125+ STEM Brands
- 3D Printing
- Robotics
- Drones
- STEAM
- Virtual STEAM
- MakerSpace
- Afterschool
- Classroom
- Summer Camps
- @ Home

STEMulate YOUR MIND!
Afterschool professionals face enormous challenges to support students in the STEM fields, especially during the recent pandemic. But STEM can be successfully implemented when educators are supported with hands-on resources and curriculum that are based on best practices!

Whether your afterschool program is operating in person, at home, or hybrid, STEMfinity provides the roadmap for afterschool providers to adopt a successful STEM Program.

STEMfinity has the largest selection of hands-on enrichment from the most trusted STEM brands on the planet. Including resources for STEAM, Robotics, 3D Printing, Drones, AR/VR/AI, and more. Whether you’re a beginner or expert, STEMfinity has a custom solution that will fit your budget and learning environment.

Quick Facts:

- 10,000+ STEM resources from 120+ brands.
- PreK-12 STEM resources for at-home, virtual learning, afterschool, library, and makerspace.
- Resource types include kits, lab equipment, curriculum, manipulatives, books, and storage.
- Resources for science, technology, engineering, maths, robotics, 3D printing, drones, and more.
- STEMfinity can create a custom STEM solution - spend less time shopping and more time teaching!

As you prepare for the rest of this school year and summer, please contact STEMfinity to create a customized STEM solution.

**Request a Custom STEM Solution**

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**Program Spotlight**

Want to be featured on Facebook or our enews? Fill out the personal/program form to tell us about the great things you or your program are doing.

**Personal Spotlight**  |  **Program Spotlight**

**STEM Activity Ideas**

Watch this recorded webinar to learn more about gender equity in STEM:

**From Research to Practice: An Up-To-Date Look at Gender Equity in STEM** - In this research-to-practice webinar, we will learn about up-to-date research regarding gender equity in STEM and how it impacts girls and women learning and working in STEM. We will also engage in conversation around strategies and resources for continued progress in supporting girls and women in STEM.

Step up your STEM game with the following activities:
**Student Activity: Toxic Popcorn Design Challenge** - This lesson introduces youth to the engineering design process as youth work in teams to design both a product and process to safely remove “toxic” popcorn and save the city.

**Student Activity: Engineering a Flotation Device** - Youth use the engineering design process to design a device that uses simple chemical reactions to create a floatable device for a cell phone.

**Student Activity: Design Your Own Snazzy Sneaker** - Youth use the engineering design process to design an environmentally sustainable shoe that meets design requirements they specify.

**Group Activity: Team Building for STEM Challenges** - In this team building activity, youth work together to lift an object by using a set of strings attached to a center ring. Each student grabs a few strings and must work together to raise the item in the center. The task requires concentration and communication and introduces the value of teamwork.

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**LAST CALL: Registration for the Network's Annual Conference Closes at NOON TODAY**

Today is the LAST DAY to register for the Network's annual conference, which is being held virtually April 23-24. We invite all frontline staff, supervisors, and executive directors to join us this Friday and Saturday. **Register by 12pm ET** to take advantage of this great opportunity, all from the comfort of your home.

- Participate in 10.5 hours of training over 2 days.
- Enjoy training on pertinent topics, including ACEs, diversity, STEAM, advocacy, social emotional learning, and more!
- Complete OCFS-approved training hours.
- Recognize and celebrate leaders in the field with our annual awards.

**View the agenda.**

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**Update: Passage of New York State 2021-2022 Budget**

**State budget maintains level funding for afterschool but fails to allocate federal funds directly to support afterschool**

The Network was glad to see maintained state investments towards afterschool, including the restoration of the Advantage After School Program and Youth Development program, and thankful for the effort to allocate federal funds to address learning loss through expanded learning opportunities. The Enacted Budget also allocated some important childcare investments that will continue critical support to many school-age children and families who have been impacted by COVID-19.

We are, however, deeply concerned that the final state budget dedicated the entire amount of American Rescue Plan federal funds available to afterschool, summer, and expanded learning programs to local districts through additional Learning Loss Grants.
Read the Network’s full statement concerning the state budget to learn more [here](https://mail.google.com/mail/u/1?ik=9eab5ba277&view=pt&search=query&permmsgid=msg-a%3Ar9196057207180646355&dsqt=1&simpl=%23msg-a).

Read our **Final Budget Analysis for 2021-2022**.

## Leveraging Afterschool to Address Learning Loss

**Proposal to utilize stimulus relief funds**  
The Network has developed a comprehensive proposal which provides recommendations to the State on using federal stimulus funds to support afterschool. The proposal focuses on rebuilding and strengthening the afterschool field to address various challenges presented by COVID-19, including learning loss. The proposal also discusses the importance of the community schools strategy to effectively and efficiently provide the wraparound services students need.

[Read the full proposal.](#)

**New resources available to afterschool providers**  
Your afterschool, summer, and expanded learning programs are an essential part of recovery and will be more important than ever as students, families, schools, and community partners, and other critical stakeholders work together to address learning loss. School districts are required to develop plans for spending learning loss funding by July 1, 2021. Collaboration between schools and community partners is more important than ever.

We want to be sure families and schools are aware of the different ways your program can help during this crisis – and engage them in supporting you. We have provided some tools to help you show school leaders how they benefit from working with afterschool providers and the extent to which families rely on your program.

Visit our [webpage on school reopening](#) to access resources to connect with school districts.

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**Help Kids Recover** is a campaign of the Afterschool Alliance, After-School All-Stars, Boys & Girls Club of America, Girl Scouts of the USA, Girls Inc., National AfterSchool Association, YMCA of the USA, and youth development and afterschool experts to help connect education leaders with community partners around the shared goal of supporting students.

The Help Kids Recover website serves as a resource for local and state education agencies on using American Rescue Plan funds to support student’s academic, social, and emotional growth by partnering with community-based afterschool and summer programs. The site includes information on funding by state and district; evidence-based practices for quality programs; and examples of partnerships from around the country.

**Thank you, Afterschool Professionals!**
The New York State Network for Youth Success is celebrating Afterschool Professionals Appreciation Week this week, April 19-23, 2021, to recognize, appreciate, and advocate for those who work with young people during afterschool, summer, and expanded learning programs.

We believe afterschool professionals make a profound difference in the lives of young people.

We encourage you to join us in thanking the afterschool professionals in your life.

Here are some ideas on how you to show your appreciation:

- Declare on social media: "I believe Afterschool professionals make a profound difference in the lives of young people. #heartofafterschool"
- Give a hand-written card from you and/or your child to the afterschool professional in your life.
- Send an email to an afterschool professional's supervisor describing why that person is appreciated.
- Make healthy or non-food treats for the staff at your afterschool program. For more resources and information check out www.heartofafterschool.com.

Interested in advancing in the school-age field? Need the qualifications to become a Site Director?

EARN YOUR SCHOOL-AGE CREDENTIAL TODAY

Network for Youth Success Events

Apr. 23-24: School's Out, Make it Count! (VIRTUAL)

The Network's annual conference is finally here! We invite all frontline staff, supervisors, and executive directors to take advantage of this great opportunity, all from the comfort of your home. Don't forget to register by NOON TODAY!

View the agenda.
Register now.

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

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

**Information:** More Information on the T-TAP

**Questions?** Contact Erin@NetworkForYouthSuccess.Org

**Register now!**

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**September: Fall 2021 SAC Credential Course (VIRTUAL), Part 1**

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 2021.**

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*Check the Network for Youth Success [events page](https://mail.google.com/mail/u/1?ik=9eab5ba277&view=pt&search=query&permmsgid=msg-a%3Ar9196057207180646355&dsqt=1&simpl=%23msg-a...)*

anytime for a current listing of upcoming events.

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**Other Events**

**Apr. 21: How to Access ARP Funds for Afterschool & Summer (webinar; 2 p.m. EDT)**

Education funding provided by the American Rescue Plan presents a tremendous opportunity to offer young people the quality afterschool and summer programs that are so desperately needed. Each of us in the afterschool field has a role to play to help ensure that funding is thoughtfully used to expand the availability of high-quality afterschool and summer programs, address barriers to participation, and fill in gaps in equity and access.

This “must join” session will provide an overview of the funding opportunity and provide tools that local communities can use to help ensure that they realize the potential of the American Rescue Plan funding to bring more afterschool and summer opportunities to fruition – and help all children re-engage, re-connect, and recover.

To learn more about the resources available, visit the Afterschool Alliance’s [American Rescue Plan](https://mail.google.com/mail/u/1?ik=9eab5ba277&view=pt&search=query&permmsgid=msg-a%3Ar9196057207180646355&dsqt=1&simpl=%23msg-a...)*

page. To register for the webinar, [click here](https://mail.google.com/mail/u/1?ik=9eab5ba277&view=pt&search=query&permmsgid=msg-a%3Ar9196057207180646355&dsqt=1&simpl=%23msg-a...).*

**Apr. 22: Earth Day Twitter Chat (7–8 p.m. EDT)**

For Earth Day 2021, Foundations, Inc. is teaming up with Mizzen by Mott to host a Twitter Chat for the afterschool field. #EarthDayAfterschool will take place on April 22 7pm-8pm EST. The event aims to engage afterschool, summer and OST professionals in conversation with leading content providers in STEM, environmental sustainability, climate change and youth environmental leadership. The conversation will be framed around 5-7 questions. Invitees include the afterschool field, summer and youth development programs and youth
leadership initiatives, Mizzen STEM partners and organizations that are dedicated to the health and sustainability of the environment.

Questions for the Twitter Chat:

1. Why is educating our youth about planet Earth, climate change, and sustainability important to you?
2. What’s a little-known fact about climate change or sustainability everyone should know?
3. What are your favorite activities in Mizzen for teaching about the Earth and climate?
4. What’s the most important thing we can do NOW to protect our planet?
5. How does working on local environmental and health issues, like air quality, and city parks, help save the planet?
6. What new content should Mizzen add to support environmental issues and climate change education?

Partners are invited to participate by:

1. Joining the conversation on Twitter at #EarthDayAfterschool and responding to questions.
2. Promoting the event on social and/or by email.

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**Apr. 28: Cultural Crossroads: Exploring the Important Intersection of Summer Program Training & Design with the Critical Need to Address Race, Equity, and Inclusion (webinar; 2 p.m. EDT)**

This webinar from the National Summer Learning Association will help organizations learn how they can best equip summer program staff with tools and training on race, equity, and inclusion in order to meet student needs and maximize program impact this summer. For more information or to register, [click here](https://mail.google.com/mail/u/1?ik=9eab5ba277&view=pt&search=query&permmsgid=msg-a%3Ar9196057207180646355&dsqt=1&simpl=%23msg-a...).

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**Apr. 28 - 30: Reimagine the Future of Afterschool: Building Back Better with Youth and Communities (virtual national institute; 12–5 p.m. EDT)**

This past year marked the devastating impacts of the COVID-19 pandemic, a reckoning with systemic racism, and the toll of climate change. Through it all, afterschool systems rose to address every challenge. At the 2021 Every Hour Counts National Institute, participants will gather virtually to reimagine the future of afterschool and what’s possible to engage, empower, and support young people. Participants will explore how to develop community-wide solutions with young people and all leaders from across communities. To register, [click here](https://mail.google.com/mail/u/1?ik=9eab5ba277&view=pt&search=query&permmsgid=msg-a%3Ar9196057207180646355&dsqt=1&simpl=%23msg-a...).

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**May 2: What’s Great in Our State 2021**

The 2021 What’s Great in Our State: A Celebration of Children’s Mental Health Awareness event is an opportunity to recognize the work of the programs, agencies, educators, parents and students within New York State that are making a difference in successfully addressing the issues of children’s social-emotional health and well-being.

View the event flyer.
Register now.

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**Summer Bootcamp: Get Ready for Summer Series (recording)**

The Summer Bootcamp Series provides program leaders with the tools they need at this moment to keep kids healthy, learning, earning, and thriving through this pandemic and beyond. In this series, the National Summer Learning Association (NSLA) dives into
strategies to accelerate learning, build critical partnerships, and plan successful programs with evidence-based practices relevant to any scenario of summer plans emerging this season. To view the recordings and materials, [click here](https://mail.google.com/mail/u/1?ik=9eab5ba277&view=pt&search=query&permmsgid=msg-a%3Ar9196057207180646355&dsqt=1&simpl=%23msg-a).

**Quick Ways To Support the Network**

Support us through [Amazon Smile](https://www.amazonSmile.com).

Make a [donation](https://networkforyouthsuccess.org/donate).

Become a [member](https://networkforyouthsuccess.org/join).

Follow us on [Facebook](https://www.facebook.com) and [Twitter](https://twitter.com).


Please visit our website at [networkforyouthsuccess.org](https://networkforyouthsuccess.org).

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

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**Ali Lidie** *(she/her/hers)*

**Associate Executive Director**, New York State Network for Youth Success

415 River Street, 2nd Floor • Troy, NY 12180

518.694.0660

The Network for Youth Success is committed to supporting **diversity, equity, and inclusion**. For resources, please visit our [website](https://networkforyouthsuccess.org).

Empower Youth Success

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