Spotlight on our newest team member, STEM and the Summer Olympics, policy updates, and more

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Spotlight: The Network Welcomes Alysha Branch to the Team
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Spotlight: Alysha Branch

The Network for Youth Success welcomes a new face to the team!

Alysha Branch currently serves as the Network's Capacity Building Coordinator. In this position, Alysha develops social media strategies and engagement. Additionally, Alysha maintains a plethora of behind-the-scenes capacity-building work to support the field and the Network, particularly with the credential and membership initiatives.

Prior to working with the Network, Alysha worked for the Capital District YMCA for 15 years, starting as an activities assistant in an afterschool program and continuing to grow professionally until she became the Regional Child Care Director. In her most recent role, Alysha oversaw numerous afterschool programs, which included both fee-for-service and grant-funded programming, as well as summer camps. With her knowledge base in afterschool programming, she has worked with programs as both a SAC credential advisor and endorser, program accreditation coach and endorser, and has offered high quality professional development to help support frontline staff in partnership with the Network.

Check out the entire Network staff.
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.

Summer Lawn Series

Join the Mott Foundation on the Mizzen by Mott app for free summer events.

Through a special virtual series, you'll hear music from jazz greats and discover new learning experiences for kids from Jazz at Lincoln Center's one-of-a-kind curriculum in Mizzen.

The Summer Lawn Series will host live music from jazz greats and promote new learning experiences for young people that blend music, language arts, science, and math.

There are two more chances to enjoy this virtual series: July 25 and August 8 at 3:30 pm.

Reserve your spot!

The Summer Olympics and STEM

We may already be well into 2021, but the Tokyo 2020 Olympic Games are finally here! The Summer Olympics are slated to run from July 23 to August 8. Celebrate the Summer Olympics with these fun activities that incorporate sports and science.

Dance

- Yamilée Toussaint-Beach (dance technologist): Activity Sheet and Educator Guide

Soccer

- Mission Unstoppable: Training With the U.S. Women’s National Team (USWNT)
- USWNT: High Performance 101

Surfing

- Mission Unstoppable: The Science Behind Surfing

Health, Safety, and Technology

- Mission Unstoppable: Using Science to Make Sports Safer
- Ellie Maybury (high performance coach for U.S. Soccer): Activity Sheet and Educator Guide
- Monica Rho (team physician USWNT): Activity Sheet and Educator Guide
- Dawn Scott (high performance coach USWNT): How She Uses STEM in Her Job
Policy Updates

Supporting and Promoting Mental Health in Out-of-School Time

Published by the Office of Child Care, this brief from the National Center on Afterschool and Summer Enrichment discusses the social and emotional constructs that promote resilience and provide examples of mental health supports to consider for collaborative implementation.

Read the full brief here.

National Summer Learning Week Began Monday

Summer may look different this year, but summer isn’t canceled. Even if we can’t all be together, summer programs are adapting and innovating to ensure children and their families can access quality summer learning opportunities and critical supports and services throughout the COVID-19 pandemic.

National Summer Learning Week is a celebration dedicated to elevating the importance of keeping kids learning, safe, and healthy every summer, ensuring they return to school ready to succeed in the year. There are many themes provided by the National Summer Learning Association (NSLA) you can use to highlight activities during the celebration.

Join NSLA’s mailing list to receive The Summer Times newsletter with up-to-date information on Summer Learning Week and more.

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

July 14 and Aug. 4: NYS School Age Care Credential (SACC) Info Sessions, Long Island ONLY (virtual; 7–8:30 pm)
In partnership with the Child Care Council of Nassau, Inc., the Network will be holding virtual info sessions to explain more about the ins and outs of this professional development
opportunity. We will review the credential process, listen to testimonies, and answer all of your questions regarding the credential coursework. We will also discuss cost and payment options (including EIP Scholarships).

Why earn this credential?

- Qualify as a Site Supervisor
- Reduce challenging behaviors
- Learn how to meet children's needs
- Familiarize yourself with NYS OCFS SACC Regulations
- Increase confidence in your work
- Enhance your leadership skills
- Join a network of credentialed professionals serving children in NYS

*These info sessions are for the new class beginning in September 2021.*

Please note this is a FREE, non-credit bearing information session. If you have any questions, please contact Training@childcarenassau.org.

**Register for Session 1 (July 14).**
**Register for Session 2 (Aug. 4).**

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**July 26: NYS School Age Care Credential Orientation, Western NY ONLY (10 am – 12 pm)**

Earning the NYS SAC Credential can improve your skills in caring for school age children and may increase your qualifications for job opportunities. The SAC Credential Program is a great opportunity for you to gain specific school-age training and receive professional recognition for your on-the-job skills. This orientation will provide you with information necessary to prepare for the SAC Credential process as well as to learn about scholarship opportunities.

*This orientation is for the new class beginning in September 2021.*

Please note this is a FREE, non-credit bearing information session. If you have any questions about the orientation or the NYS SACC program, please contact Sara Rickan at srickan@wnychildren.org.

**Register now.**

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**Aug. 10–19: Health and Safety for SAC Directors (virtual)**

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.

This is a six-session course (Aug. 10–12, 17–19), running from 9 am–12 pm. Participants are required to attend all sessions.

This is an OCFS-approved virtual training.

Questions? Contact Erin via email at erin@networkforyouthsuccess.org.

**Register now.**
September: Fall 2021 SAC Credential Course (Online-Asynchronous), 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.

Candidates may even be eligible for scholarship funds through SUNY’s Educational Incentive Program to cover some or all of the costs associated with the course.

Starting in September: Fall 2021 SAC Credential Courses (in-person), Part 1

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 SACC course is an in-depth study of competency standards that reflect best practices in after-school programs. It is designed to promote specific standards, training, and evaluation of afterschool professionals to improve the quality of services provided to children and families.

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 management.

This class meets the education requirement to be a Site Director in New York State.

Capital Regions Course Details and Registration Information

When: Wednesdays, 10am-1pm (with an occasional Tuesday)
Where: Healthy Living Center, 900 Central Ave, Albany, NY 12206*
Instructors: Alicia Salamone-Powers, Erin Broderick, Timothy Fowler

Candidates may even be eligible for scholarship funds through SUNY’s Educational Incentive Program to cover some or all of the costs associated with the course.

*Note: We are hoping this remains an in-person course. However, depending on the circumstances this fall, we may have to go to virtual or hybrid.

Register

Long Island Course Details and Registration Information

The course format includes skill area modules with video slide show mini-lectures, discussion groups, projects, resource sharing, and bi-weekly deadlines to complete credential-required assignments.

When: Sept. 21–Dec. 14 (Tuesdays, 9am–12pm)
Where: Child Care Council of Nassau, 99 Quentin Roosevelt Blvd., Suite 201, Garden City, NY 11530
Instructor: Diane Shirley

Register

Check the Network for Youth Success events page anytime for a current listing of upcoming events.

Other Events

July 12–16: National Summer Learning Week
National Summer Learning Week is a celebration dedicated to elevating the importance of keeping kids learning, safe, and healthy every summer, ensuring they return to school ready to succeed in the year. The National Summer Learning Association (NSLA) developed this webpage to share toolkits and resources to support summer planning and promote National Summer Learning Week. To access more information and resources, click here.

August 17 & 18: Orientation—The Process of Staff Integration (virtual; 10 am–1 pm)
Hiring and recruiting staff is one of the biggest challenges that child care directors face in this day of early care and education. This OCFS-funded management training from the Early Care & Learning Council will explore the value of creating a progressive orientation process as a way to fully integrate teachers/staff into your program. The sessions will focus on the hiring and orientation process as a method for retaining staff, and will discuss ways to lead new teachers/staff to become a part of your team with a common mission and vision.

For more information or to register, click here.

Skill Development in STEM Programming
ICYMI, the National Girls Collaborative Project held a webinar on STEM skills development. The webinar focused on the equity and inclusion framework as well as 21st century skills and career exploration.

Watch the webinar.
View the slides.

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.

Quick Ways To Support the Network

Support us through Amazon Smile.

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Please visit our website at networkforyouthsuccess.org.
Donate to our cause at networkforyouthsuccess.org/donate.

Remove my name from all future mass email communications:

Address postal inquiries to:
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