Spotlight on Shakema Cyrus, Million Girls Moonshot booster packs, policy updates, and more

1 message

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Spotlight on Shakema Cyrus

This week, the Network is pleased to shine a spotlight on Shakema Cyrus, the afterschool program director for Girls Prep Lower East Side Middle School.

Inspired by the afterschool program she attended when she was younger, Shakema began working in the afterschool field in 2018. “Through that experience, I was able to build long-lasting relationships, be exposed to many community opportunities that have aided in my growth as a young adult, and [gain] access to organizations that I am now able to partner with for my current students,” said Shakema.

Shakema has successfully applied her previous skills in event planning and education to create amazing opportunities for students, staff, and their families, and “to educate, support, and empower the community” that she serves.
The SAC Credential Course was essential to Shakema’s transition from her business background to the afterschool field. Taking this course was a "no-brainer," she explained, as it positioned her to elevate her career and run a great program that is "in compliance with every aspect of [our] program requirements." Shakema went on to say that, “Through taking the SAC Credential Course, I learned that creating an efficient afterschool program for students takes hard work and commitment...and that the opportunities are endless as long as you’re utilizing all resources provided to you to create the best program possible.”

To find an agency that teaches the SAC Credential near you, click here.

For more information on the asynchronous distance learning course, click here.

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

New Framework for Improvement of Afterschool Programs

Putting Data to Work for Young People: A Framework for Measurement, Continuous Improvement, and Equitable Systems is a tool released by Every Hour Counts that aims to help afterschool programs assess their performance and implement improvements.

Accompanied by a guidebook, these resources are underpinned by research and data. The guidebook includes concrete examples of how to collect and interpret data, as well as a data toolkit, to aid organizations in collecting and using data to best inform decision-making.

To access the tool and guidebook, click here.

Million Girls Moonshot Booster Packs

Great news! Million Girls Moonshot Fall 2021 Booster Packs are officially here.

Booster Packs provide direct support to networks and participating programs to go deeper in Moonshot transformative practices alongside their partners. This fall, Million Girls Moonshot will offer the following booster packs for program providers and staff:

- **Click2Engineering Community of Practice.** What is engineering? How do engineers solve problems? How do we help youth learn about and do engineering that is relevant to their lives? In this community of practice, participants will be introduced to the basics of engineering and leading engineering activities with youth. Sessions will include engineering activities, developing engineering activities for youth, and
learning specific skills to facilitate engineering activities with youth. Read more about this opportunity and submit an interest form. Deadline is August 13.

- **Techbridge Girls Training and Curriculum.** Techbridge Girls program models provide hands-on experiences with broad STEM content and career exposure and social/emotional development activities. The programs also engage parents and are supported by rigorous evaluation. Educators delivering their program content receive a full complement of their training, pre-kitted materials/materials lists, and ongoing technical assistance. Read more about this opportunity and submit an interest form. Deadline is August 13.

- **Teen Science Cafes.** Teen Science Café programs are a free, fun way for teens to engage in lively conversations with STEM experts that explore the advances in science and technology that affect their lives. In these events, teens socialize over teen-friendly food and drink and engage in lively conversation with local scientists and engineers about current cutting-edge developments in their fields, all in a relaxed and informal afterschool setting. Read more about this opportunity and submit an interest form. Deadline is September 30.

**Last Chance: Summer Lawn Series**

It's not too late to join the Mott Foundation on the Mizzen by Mott app for free summer events.

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

The last chance to enjoy this virtual series is on August 8 at 3:30 pm.

**Policy Updates**

**Child Care Stabilization Grants are Coming Soon**

An application will soon release for child care providers to receive funding to help with COVID-19 pandemic recovery. This funding can be used to cover:

- Rent, mortgage, and utilities
- Payroll and benefits
- Health and safety training
- Facility maintenance or improvements
- PPE, cleaning, and sanitizing supplies
- Equipment related to COVID-19
- Goods to continue child care
- Mental health support for staff and children

The Network will continue to send out updates as we receive information.
US Department of Education releases guidance for using American Rescue Plan (ARP) funding to support full-service Community School

On July 14, the US Department of Education released Frequently Asked Questions: Using American Rescue Plan Funding to Support Full-Service Community Schools & Related Strategies. These FAQs are intended to inform state and local efforts in effectively using ESSER funds to support evidence-based, full-service community schools and related approaches.

The Department is releasing the FAQs to provide districts and communities with information and considerations for expanding existing full-service community schools and implementing this approach in additional schools. All of the strategies described in the FAQs can be supported with funding under the ARP, regardless of whether a school is a full-service community school.

Full press release.
Full guidance.

Research for Community Schools as Evidence-Based Strategy

The Learning Policy Institute created a resource that outlines how community schools are a strategic investment of ARP funding. This fact sheet highlights the strengths of the community school strategy in addressing pandemic-related learning loss. It includes details on the types of student outcomes community schools improve, a return-on-investment metric, and their effectiveness in striving toward a more equitable education system. It continues to explain how schools can use federal and state funding to establish community schools in their districts.

To access the fact sheet and learn more, click here.

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
Aug. 4: NYS School Age Care Credential (SACC) Info Session, 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).

This info session 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, please contact Training@childcarenassau.org.

Register now.

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 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.

Fall 2021 SAC Credential Courses (in-person)
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**

**Part 1**
**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**

**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](https://mail.google.com/mail/u/0?ik=d01bf710ca&view=pt&search=all&permthid=thread-f%3A1708354949343217178&simpl=msg-f%3A17083549493...).
September 13–16: 2021 CACFP Virtual Summit (virtual; 11 am–2:30 pm ET)
Looking for food program training? Join CACFP each day from your home, your office, or your home office for workshops on nutrition, program administration, operations, financial and nonprofit management, and more. Continuing education credits awarded. Registration Deadline is Wednesday, September 8th. (Need to create an invoice? Register by September 1st.)

On-demand access will be available through September 30. 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.

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