



Alysha Branch <alysha@networkforyouthsuccess.org>

Spotlight on Christina and Donald, Afterschool Advocacy Day, Media Literacy, and More!

1 message

Alysha Branch <alysha@networkforyouthsuccess.org>
To: alysha@networkforyouthsuccess.org

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**Network Newsletter | September 22, 2023**Spotlight: Christina Roman and Donald HandleySave the Date: Afterschool Advocacy Day is January 30, 2024OCFS UpdateMizzen by Mott & Media LiteracyNetwork for Youth Success EventsSupport the Network for Youth Success**SAC Spotlights: Christina Roman and Donald Handley****Christina Roman***Interim Director for the Boys and Girls Club of Harlem*

Christina began working in March 2022. She's always loved working with children, and she really enjoys the community of students, families, and staff at the Boys and Girls Club of Harlem. In her role, she deals with challenging behaviors, curriculum development, and program management. Moreover, she maintains strong lines of communication with parents. Christina recognizes that she is in a position to have a major impact on children's physical and mental development. Since enrolling in the SAC course, she has learned how to maintain a safe and healthy learning environment, cope with children's social emotions, and find resources for families.

Donald Handley*Director of the Niagara Falls Boys and Girls Club*

Donald began working with children in 2020. Not only does he enjoy the work, but he loves the bonds he has formed in the past few years. As a kid, Donald went to the Boys and Girls Club and met some wonderful people who he still stays in contact with today. When he needed someone, these mentors were there for him.

Now Donald wants to be that person for a kid who needs someone. Through taking the SAC Credential course, Donald gained insight into additional resources to continue to improve program quality.



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

Save the Date: Afterschool Advocacy Day is January 30, 2024

The NYS Network for Youth Success is hosting our annual Afterschool Advocacy Day event at the State Capitol in Albany on January 30, 2024. Join supporters of afterschool, summer, and expanded learning programs to advocate for increased access to high-quality afterschool programs.

Legislators will be at the Capitol negotiating with their colleagues about what programs to fund. We need your voice to show them that afterschool cannot be an afterthought in the FY 2024-2025 budget.

We hope to maximize participation from afterschool advocates, including afterschool professionals and families, to join meetings with their state legislators. Come share your experience with afterschool to highlight the need for additional investment. This is the best way to increase afterschool access for youth across New York.

Please be sure to save the following dates to participate in Afterschool Advocacy Day 2024:

- **Registration Opens**, Wednesday, September 27
- **Registration Closes**, Friday, January 19
- **Advocacy Day Participant Prep Call**, Tuesday, January 23, *Time TBD*
- **Afterschool Advocacy Day 2024**, Tuesday, January 30, 9AM-3PM

More information is coming soon. We look forward to seeing you there!

OCFS Update

Contract Reform Initiative

Division of Administration/Finance



Office of Children
and Family Services

Just a few months ago, OCFS announced the first wave of exciting improvements made as the result of the **Contract Reform Initiative**. Harnessing the innovative thinking of focus groups, teams of OCFS subject matter experts and process improvement specialists, this ambitious effort has allowed OCFS to improve the contracting experience for you. **Now a second new group of improvements that include the following:**

- **New sample budgets and narratives** to help you develop an expense-based or performance/deliverable-based budget.
- **New “miscellaneous” line item** for unexpected expenses that don’t fit into existing expense-based budget categories.
- **Flexibility to make line-item adjustments between non-personal services (NPS) categories** in expense-based budgets.
- **Multiple, new guided tutorials** to walk you through developing your budget, using the newly developed budget samples. These tutorials are broken down by budget section so you can easily navigate to the section needed or simply pick up again where you left off.
- **New step-by-step job aid** to guide you through Correcting/Rejecting a Claim in CMS. This new resource joins the library of online job aids currently available to OCFS contractors.
- **New General Contracting Helpline** for contractors who receive award letters. Phone center staff are standing by to provide answers to the most frequently asked questions, walk you through many common technical issues and/or put you in contact with the right person to answer any specific questions that may be unique to your contract.
- **New standardized practices to ensure consistent communication with you** by OCFS contracting staff.
- **New standardized practices to ensure consistent communication within OCFS** among the various contracting bureaus.

In addition, OCFS has improved many of the agency’s internal procedures behind the scenes for processing contracts and assisting you, with more overall improvements in the works.

Mizzen by Mott & Media Literacy

Spark youth curiosity and empower critical thinking with Mizzen by Mott and the Pulitzer Center, which cultivates engagement with underreported global issues through journalism and education.

These resources have joined forces to launch a FREE collection of media literacy lessons for young people (grades 2-6 and 7-12) on the Mizzen platform.

Through these powerful new modules, youth will explore:

- What is journalism?
- What is bias? How does it impact the news, and our interpretation of news stories?
- How can we call attention to stories that matter to us?

And there’s more! To bring this content to life, you and your program can take part in the Pulitzer Center’s free virtual journalist visit program. The Pulitzer Center works with thousands of journalists, making the visit customizable: youth can learn about career pathways, journalism skills, interrupting bias and misinformation, and/or content areas that the journalist covers. You’ll also find detailed guidance on how young people can take the lead on hosting your guest speaker.

Ready to investigate? Dive into the new media literacy collection now!

The News and You: Journalism and Media Literacy for Grades 2-6



This module nurtures curiosity, critical thinking, empathy, and empowerment. It covers understanding news, challenging biases, seeking underreported stories, and taking action through creative expression and journalism.

The News and You: Journalism and Media Literacy for Grades 7-12

How can good journalism empower people? This module begins by asking students to identify what they believe the purpose of journalism to be and guides them to think critically and creatively about their relationship with the news.



What Is Journalism, and Why Does It Matter?

In this activity, students leverage prior knowledge to define the news, understand the role of journalists in covering the news, and consider why journalism is important to their personal lives and community.

What Should Journalism Do?

What is journalism, and what role does it play in our everyday lives? In this activity, students will reflect on the purpose of journalism, and how being informed can empower people.



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



EVENTS COORDINATOR

Organize high-quality, sustainable, & engaging events for the afterschool, summer, & expanded learning fields.

STEAM COORDINATOR

Work with afterschool programs to develop & facilitate STEAM partnerships to support high-quality STEAM experiences.

Click here for more information and to apply.

Asynchronous Distance Learning SAC Credential Registration is Now Open!

NYS SAC Credential Part 2* - (Spring)

Dates: January 8, 2024 - April 28, 2024

Instructor: Alysha Branch

Method of Instruction: Asynchronous Distance Learning (via Google Classroom)

Cost: \$940.00 per semester. Individuals must take both semesters (Part 1 and Part 2)

**Classes (Parts 1 and 2) can be taken in either order (in a variety of formats), but not at the same time.*

Register Today!

Have Questions?

Email Erin@NetworkForYouthSuccess.Org

Note: There may be other virtual or face-to-face classes in your area. For a listing go [here](#). Pricing and times will vary.

*Registration closes two weeks prior to the start date or when the course is full.

Oct 12: Acres Training: Register for the NY Cohorts



NY Cohorts

Are you ready to bring meaningful STEM learning into your program? The ACRES module offers educators who are new to facilitating STEM the opportunity to build supportive relationships with other educators, while exploring the principles of STEM learning. This module combines an introduction to STEM facilitation with the skill of Asking Purposeful Questions.

This series (valued at \$250) is offered at **no cost** to participants, for a limited time (Fall 2023 only) thanks to funding from the National Science Foundation grant #2115229 and #1713134.

Here's how to register:

1. First, [enroll in ACRES](#).
2. Once you are logged in, [sign up for this opportunity](#) using one of the

following codes:

- **NY341PQ:** Coach Roberto, meets Saturdays 10 AM-Noon on October 21, 28, and November 4, 2023*
- **NY 30-39** (Coach Kaycia S.), meets Wednesdays 4:30 to 6:30 PM on October 28th, November 1st and 8th

*The expectation is that you will attend all three sessions and be an active member of this coaching cohort.

Not sure if this is the right opportunity for you? Check out this testimonial about ACRES training: <https://youtu.be/ZUp7DVOuhEY>

Power of 3:00 Afterschool Advocacy Webinar Series

Activating Afterschool Advocates: Engaging Youth, Families, and Media

October 3, 12:00 PM | **Register Now**

Engagement of youth and parents/caregivers is essential to uplifting the voice of the individuals that benefit most from investment in afterschool programs. This session focuses on effective methods, tools, and tips for meaningfully engaging youth, families, and media in afterschool advocacy. You will learn tips for best effectively engaging youth and families, discuss what motivates them to volunteer, and learn about common missteps when engaging them. We will then take some time to explore how to amplify youth and family voice through engagement of traditional media and social media platforms to increase awareness around the value of afterschool in your community.

Begins Oct. 10: Site Leader Institute

Are you a new site-level manager? Are you starting an afterschool program with a new grant? The Site Leader Institute can help you grow into your new role. Visit our Site Leader Institute [webpage](#) for more details and to register.

There are six total sessions for 15 OCFS-approved training hours. All sessions are held 9:30 am–12:30 pm.

Tuesday, October 10th
Thursday, October 12th
Tuesday, October 17th
Thursday, October 19th
Tuesday, October 24th
Thursday, October 26th

Click here to register. Registration closes on September 26th.

Training Opportunities Available for the 2023-2024 school year!

Supervision of Children and Youth in Afterschool Programs

Learn how to keep the children and youth in your program safe by implementing different supervision tips and tricks. Learn more about your role as a teacher and also how to create a safe environment that allows for safe and successful supervision.

Presenter: Alysha Branch or Sara Rickan
OCFS Area(s): 3, 4
Location: Virtual-Live, via Zoom

Two Training Dates Available

Tuesday, October 17, 2023
10:00am - 12:00pm

Thursday, January 25, 2024
10:00am - 12:00pm

Encouraging Positive Behavior

Part of working with children also includes managing behaviors. This training will help participants identify common misbehaviors in after school programs and how the environment plays a role. Learn techniques to guide positive behaviors and turn misbehaviors into teachable moments for youth.

Presenter: Alysha Branch or Sara Rickan
OCFS Area(s): 1, 3
Location: Virtual-Live, via Zoom

Two Training Dates Available

Thursday, November 16, 2023
6:30 - 8:30pm

Thursday, February 29, 2024
10:00am - 12:00pm

Click here to register.

Apr. 17-20: SAVE THE DATE Empower Youth Success Conference 2024

Mark your calendars! You won't want to miss the Network's Empower Youth Success 2024 conference, which will tackle the issues that matter most to you and your organization.

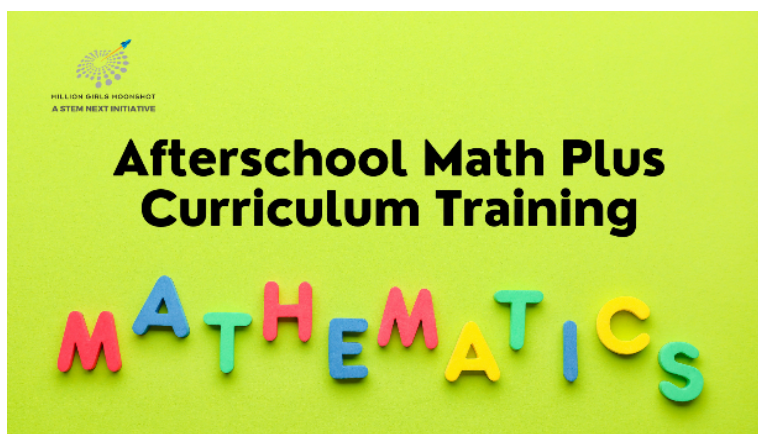
1. The NYS Community Schools Resilience & Equity Conference (April 17 & 18)
2. 21st Century Community Learning Centers Conference (April 19)
3. School's Out, Make it Count (April 19 & 20)

We are excited to announce the conference partners for next year's Empower Youth Success Conference: SED, Finger Lakes Community Schools, Binghamton University, NYC Technical Assistance Resource Center (NYC TARC), and Change Impact.

Check the Network for Youth Success [events page](#) anytime for a current listing of upcoming events.

Other Events

Afterschool Math Plus Curriculum Training (Thursdays 1– 2 pm)



Click below to register for one or more of the webinars and learn how to use Afterschool Math Plus activities in your afterschool time program.

September 19th | MusicMath: Unexpected Math, Creating Rhythms, and Making Rhythm Patterns

Create musical patterns, then repeat the patterns and think about how to represent the patterns using words, pictures, and symbols.

October 17th | **MusicMath: Composing Music (with Math!)**

Experiment with repeating patterns and create new arrangements using similar sounds in different sequences.

Note: Each webinar will include strategies to support a positive Math Identity (e.g., role models, career connections, family connections, literacy connections).

Register for each individual training session [here](#).

View previous recordings below:

April

May

June

Sept 28: Meet STEM Picture Book Author and Founder of Let's Engineer (7 pm)



Are you looking for girl-centered STEM picture books and activities? Author Sheryl Haft's newest book *Mazie's Amazing Machines* features dynamic illustrations, a fun fold-out spread, and even a QR code to meet Mazie in augmented reality 3-D that is sure to inspire budding engineers and out-of-the-box thinking.

Join @ngcproject for a conversation with Sheryl on the development and inspiration behind *Mazie's Amazing Machines*. Leave this event with ideas for activities and discussion prompts to inspire girls – and all young children – in engineering!

Click here to register.

Oct. 6, 10, 17: Scientific Adventures for Girls Math Curriculum Training (12:00-1:00PM)



Harnessing the Magic of Math

Join this dynamic, three-part virtual training series designed to breathe life into math through games; meaningful, kid-friendly data analysis; and nature exploration. Sessions focus on strategies that accommodate multiple grade levels and ability levels, helping you meet each student where they are. Prepare to turn your after-school program into a vibrant and engaging mathematical journey!

Oct. 3: Let's Play

Delve into the world where play meets mathematics. In this session, explore how common game pieces, such as dominoes and dice, can be transformed into effective math teaching and exploration tools. You'll learn strategies for presenting math concepts in a playful, engaging manner, catering to different grade levels and ability levels. Also discuss how games can enhance critical thinking, problem-solving, and cooperative learning among students.

Oct. 10: Data Detectives

In our second session, focus on strategies to collect and analyze data in fun and meaningful ways. From measuring the bounce of different balls and exploring exponential decay by eating M&M's, you'll learn to demonstrate how students can become active participants in the world of gathering and interpreting data.

Oct. 17: Nature's Numbers: Exploring Shapes & Patterns

Explore the geometric patterns and 3-D shapes that exist in the natural world, demonstrating how these can be used to enrich math learning. This session will equip you with strategies to engage all students, from the youngest to the oldest, and from beginner to advanced levels.

REGISTER FOR EACH INDIVIDUAL SESSION [HERE](#)

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New York State Network for Youth Success, Inc.
415 River Street
Troy, NY 12180

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