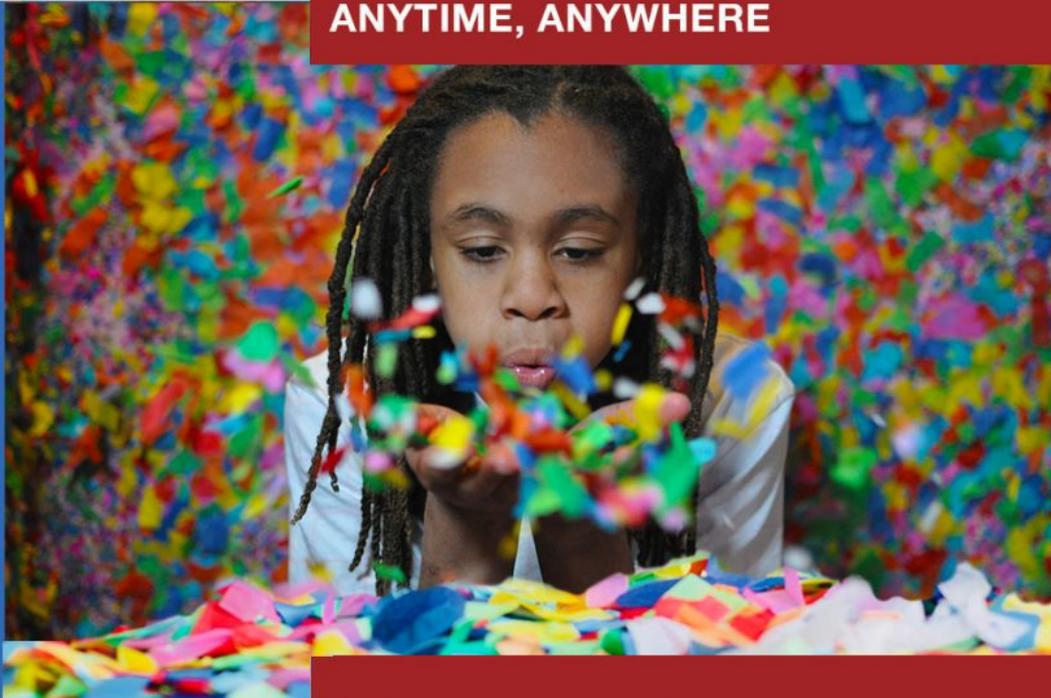




# Illinois 21<sup>st</sup> CCLC Virtual Spring Conference May 6 and 7, 2021

**QUALITY AFTERSCHOOL:  
ANYTIME, ANYWHERE**



**CONFERENCE AGENDA**





**Welcome** to the Nita M. Lowey 21<sup>st</sup> Century Community Learning Centers (CCLC) Virtual Spring Conference 2021, hosted by the Illinois State Board of Education (ISBE) Wellness Department and Illinois Quality Afterschool at the American Institutes for Research (AIR). The conference is designed to engage Illinois 21<sup>st</sup> CCLC grantees, their program partners, program evaluators, and other afterschool professionals in conversations about best practices and strategies that support student learning and the implementation of high-quality afterschool programs.



## Quality Afterschool: Anytime, Anywhere

Our conference theme reminds us of how 21<sup>st</sup> CCLC practitioners go beyond expectations to support their students. Over the past year, Illinois 21<sup>st</sup> CCLC programs have offered activities to students on Saturdays, before school, after school, and even late at night. Whether online or in person, programs have found creative ways for students to participate in hands-on activities at home or to safely meet with their peers in person. In addition to offering academic support and enrichment, this year more than ever afterschool programs have marshaled community resources for families and provided social and emotional supports to help students face the challenges of the past year. This conference highlights the innovative ways that we have all become more resilient and persistent in providing quality afterschool experiences for our students and their families. We look forward to the year ahead.

## Conference Strands

The conference is organized in three strands comprising topics integral to the work of developing high-quality afterschool programs.

### Academics Afterschool

To encourage and facilitate student learning in afterschool, 21<sup>st</sup> CCLCs use a variety of instructional approaches that engage and challenge students. Through tutoring, academic



enrichment, and other activities, 21<sup>st</sup> CCLCs provide innovative opportunities for students to improve skills in core academic areas. Presentations for this strand will share strategies and resources to support, expand, and inspire student learning in your afterschool program.

### **Continuous Improvement**

High-quality 21<sup>st</sup> CCLC programs adopt a philosophy of continuous improvement. These programs are goal oriented, routinely assess their progress, and make necessary adjustments to remain on track for reaching program goals. Presentations for this strand will focus on strategies, resources, and tools used in building staff capacity; gauging program effectiveness; using data to inform program implementation; fostering robust communication; and partnering with families, schools, program staff, and community organizations.

### **Afterschool Enrichment**

Afterschool programs offer a range of youth development activities that promote social and emotional development, extending students' knowledge in new ways and providing them with crucial life skills. The focus for this strand is on sharing successful strategies and activities that enhance students' experiences in the afterschool program and support student learning and social-emotional development.



## Thursday, May 6, 2021

### 9:00 AM – 10:30 AM OPENING SESSION

#### STUDENT PERFORMANCE

Southland College Prep Charter High School and O.W. Huth Middle School Jazz Bands, Matteson School District 162, Richton Park, IL

Sit back and enjoy musical excerpts from concerts performed by jazz band students at Matteson School District 162. Southland College Prep Charter High School jazz band and chorus perform our first selection of the 1950s classic, *Lullaby of Broadway*. And performing a rendition of the Bruno Mars hit, *Finesse*, the O.W. Huth Middle School jazz band will close out the show.

#### WELCOME AND GREETINGS

Cara Wiley, Director, Wellness Department, Illinois State Board of Education (ISBE), Springfield, IL  
Lacy Wood, Program Manager, Illinois Quality Afterschool at the American Institutes for Research (AIR), Austin, TX

#### KEYNOTE PRESENTATION

##### YOU MATTER

Matt Emerzian, Founder and CEO, Every Monday Matters, Los Angeles, CA

You matter to so many people—to yourself, your students, your colleagues, your families and relationships, and to your community and the world. However, sometimes it all seems so overwhelming, and we disconnect or simply forget how incredible we are. This keynote session will inspire you to own your awesomeness and will boldly remind you just how much and why you matter. Get ready for a highly interactive and life-changing experience. You matter.

**10:30 AM – 10:50 AM**    **BREAK**

**10:50 AM – 11:50 AM**    **Concurrent Sessions I**

#### STRAND II – CONTINUOUS IMPROVEMENT

##### WHAT STAFF SHOULD KNOW ABOUT THE 21<sup>ST</sup> CCLC PROGRAM

Kenya Davis, Principal Consultant, Wellness Department, Illinois State Board of Education (ISBE), Springfield, IL



The success of the 21<sup>st</sup> CCLC program is the responsibility of the entire afterschool staff. During this session, we will focus on what staff should know about the 21<sup>st</sup> CCLC program regarding the importance of good recordkeeping and building strong partnerships with program stakeholders.

### **SUPPORTING THE WHOLE CHILD**

Ashley Howard, Resource Coordinator, Gads Hill Center, Chicago, IL

Gads Hill Center strives to provide cohesive, holistic educational enrichment by attending to students' cognitive and social-emotional learning as well as their development in the arts, STEM, and physical education. In this session we will consider the importance of using data, parent and civic engagement, and the entire school community to provide a holistic education experience that improves the overall wellness of the child, the family structure, and the surrounding community. We will explore how to lead students to become advocates of their emotional needs, narrators of their own experiences, and catalysts of change for their communities.

### **A YEAR OF UNINTENDED OUTCOMES**

Leslie Goodyear, Principal Evaluation Director, Education Development Center (EDC), Waltham, MA

Sophia Mansori, Project Director, EDC, Waltham, MA

Sheila Rodriguez, Senior Technical Assistance and Training Associate, EDC, Chicago, IL

Joshua Cox, Senior Research Associate, EDC, Chicago, IL

The word of the year for many of us has been “pivot.” Planned activities have changed, and expected outcomes, indicators, and measures have been set aside. The usual measures of the statewide objectives, such as students' improved academic achievement and changes in classroom behavior, are either not available, not applicable, or not reflective of what has happened this year. In this session, we will share alternative outcomes that 21<sup>st</sup> CCLC programs may want to capture and celebrate, such as parent engagement and student retention. We will also discuss the importance of documenting implementation strategies and reflecting on what you have learned that can be incorporated into programming in the “new normal.”

### **INCLUDING STUDENTS WITH DISABILITIES**

Jenn Conner, Lead Education Specialist, You for Youth (Y4Y), Mt. Laurel, NJ

David McConnell, Lead Training Specialist, Y4Y, Mt. Laurel, NJ

Everyone benefits when your 21<sup>st</sup> CCLC program embraces all students, which you're closer to achieving when you include students with disabilities. In this session, the You for Youth (Y4Y) Technical Assistance (TA) Team will break down how critical legislation relates to the students in your program. We'll also offer guidance about what your program can do



globally to embrace and prepare for inclusion, discuss how to evaluate and modify the accessibility of program spaces for diverse student needs, and provide you with strategies and resources for supporting specific students.

**11:50 AM – 12:30 PM LUNCH BREAK**

**12:30 PM – 1:30 PM Concurrent Sessions II**

## **STRAND I – ACADEMICS AFTERSCHOOL**

### **BEYOND THE PAGE AFTERSCHOOL PROGRAM: READ ALOUD AS A SPRINGBOARD TO INQUIRY**

Maria Walther, Consultant/Retired First Grade Teacher, Indian Prairie School District 204, Aurora, IL

Jessica Walsh, ELA/History Middle School Teacher/Instructional Specialist, Granger Middle School, Indian Prairie School District 204, Aurora, IL

How do we get kids jazzed up about reading? We select texts and ideas that spark their interest and show them all of the amazing places books can take them. Join two literacy educators to learn about an afterschool literacy program designed to connect students in grades 1–5 with a wide range of stories. Hear how they enriched each book with hands-on, minds-on activities intended to get learners talking, thinking critically, and wondering about their world.

## **STRAND II – CONTINUOUS IMPROVEMENT**

### **DEVELOPING AND IMPLEMENTING A SAFETY TRAINING PLAN**

David McConnell, Lead Training Specialist, You for Youth (Y4Y), Mt. Laurel, NJ

Jenn Conner, Lead Education Specialist, Y4Y, Mt. Laurel, NJ

Are your program staff clear on roles and expectations during various emergencies? Are program students and families aware of and ready to implement set safety procedures? This session will help program directors, site coordinators, and other program leadership implement and revise existing organizational safety plans based on the needs of your program. Learn about building your program's capacity to respond effectively to emergencies. We will provide strategies for implementing your safety plan and safety training plan in ways that are sensitive to the emotional and mental health needs of children, staff, and families.



## **LEADING BEHAVIOR MANAGEMENT TRAINING WITH YOUR STAFF**

Gwyneth Emigh, Director of Operations, Union League Boys & Girls Club, Chicago, IL

In this session, you will receive a tool that will guide you through facilitating a staff training on appropriate behavior management. The tool, created by the presenter, is used by youth development programs across the country and is adaptable to best practices set by each site. Hear tips and tricks on how to prepare for the training and implement best practices, see examples of the tool's application, and get advice on how to debrief and start planning for your next training.

## **FUNDING URGENCY: PLANNING FOR TODAY AND TOMORROW**

Michael Hannan, 21<sup>st</sup> CCLC Community of Practice Facilitator, Cook County & Surrounding Areas

Tiffanie Hobbs, 21<sup>st</sup> CCLC Community of Practice Facilitator, Southern Region

Kim Sellers, 21<sup>st</sup> CCLC Community of Practice Facilitator, Central Region

Rachel Shields, 21<sup>st</sup> CCLC Community of Practice Facilitator, Northern Region

The 2021 program year is not one that we will soon forget. As our attention turns to 2022, are you looking for ideas to spend down funds? Want to know what others are doing? Join the 21<sup>st</sup> CCLC Community of Practice facilitators to discuss good investments of the 21<sup>st</sup> CCLC funds, including spend-down options that support this year's summer programming and planning for your FY2022 program. Learn about budget tools and how stakeholder feedback can be used to re-engage students in afterschool.

## **Friday, May 7, 2021**

**9:30 AM – 10:30 AM    Concurrent Sessions I**

### **STRAND III – AFTERSCHOOL ENRICHMENT**

## **HANDS-ON AFTERSCHOOL STEM CLUBS: TO ZOOM OR NOT TO ZOOM**

Mary Kelly, Family Engagement Coordinator, Indian Prairie School District 204, Aurora, IL

In this presentation we will share how we developed afterschool clubs and a summer camp that incorporate STEM activities. In addition, we will show how we facilitated hands-on activities and worked with community and business partnerships to take the program into a virtual format. The session will end with a group share of how participants have designed family engagement activities focused on STEM. Let's learn from each other!



## STRAND II – CONTINUOUS IMPROVEMENT

### INCLUDING STUDENTS WITH DISABILITIES

Jenn Conner, Lead Education Specialist, You for Youth (Y4Y), Mt. Laurel, NJ

Everyone benefits when your 21<sup>st</sup> CCLC program embraces all students, which you're closer to achieving when you include students with disabilities. In this session, the You for Youth (Y4Y) Technical Assistance (TA) Team will break down how critical legislation relates to the students in your program. We'll also offer guidance about what your program can do globally to embrace and prepare for inclusion, discuss how to evaluate and modify the accessibility of program spaces for diverse student needs, and provide you with strategies and resources for supporting specific students.

### MEETING STUDENTS WHERE THEY ARE: BUILDING A CULTURALLY RESPONSIVE PROGRAM

Michael Hannan, 21<sup>st</sup> CCLC Project Director, Alternative Schools Network, Chicago, IL

Marie Snyder, Site Coordinator, Dr. Pedro Albizu Campos High School, Chicago, IL

Janessa Perez, High School Senior, Dr. Pedro Albizu Campos High School, Chicago, IL

Developing authentic, culturally responsive afterschool programs can boost engagement, spark students' desire to learn, and improve learning outcomes. But what approaches will establish inclusion, develop positive attitudes toward learning, increase meaning, and build student confidence to inspire them to succeed? First, we must know our students. An experienced site coordinator and project director will share the approaches that have succeeded in their 21<sup>st</sup> CCLC program. And one of the program's students will share the youth perspective.

### ASSESSING PROGRAM EFFECTIVENESS WITH Y4Y

David McConnell, Lead Training Specialist, You for Youth (Y4Y), Mt. Laurel, NJ

Calling all 21<sup>st</sup> CCLC program leaders! Join the U.S. Department of Education's You for Youth (Y4Y) Technical Assistance (TA) Team as we demonstrate how to use the continuous improvement cycle as a means of determining program effectiveness. After completing this session, you'll leave with an answer to the question, "Is my program effective?" During the session we'll explore a variety of tools available from Y4Y that can support programs in gathering data, understanding student and community needs, and evaluating the success of programs. You'll leave this session empowered to evaluate and improve your 21<sup>st</sup> Century program using evidence-based practices.

**10:30 AM – 10:50 AM    BREAK**



**10:50 AM – 11:50 AM    GENERAL SESSION**

**OUR YOUTH MATTER – EMM K-12 RESOURCES**

Matt Emerzian, Founder and CEO, Every Monday Matters, Los Angeles, CA

Jocelyn Guansing, Director of Education, Every Monday Matters, Los Angeles, CA

Our youth are intelligent, talented, caring, innovative, creative, resilient and so much more. Let's help our youth embrace and value who they are, understand and practice how they can support and celebrate others, and work together to contribute to creating a world that matters. Join us and practice using engaging tools and meaningful activities that foster SEL and help our youth connect to the vital roles they play in our programs, communities, and world.

**11:50 AM    CONFERENCE ADJOURNED**