



# Illinois 21st CCLC Virtual Spring Conference

## May 2 - 4, 2022





**Welcome** to the Nita M. Lowey 21st Century Community Learning Centers (CCLC) Virtual Spring Conference 2022, hosted by the Illinois State Board of Education (ISBE) Wellness Department and Illinois Quality Afterschool at American Institutes for Research (AIR). The conference provides a forum for Illinois 21st CCLC grantees, program partners, program evaluators, and other afterschool professionals to learn about and share best practices, strategies, and information relevant to quality afterschool implementation.



## Afterschool For All

Our conference theme, Afterschool for All, reminds us that every child deserves a high-quality afterschool program. Through partnerships with schools, families, and community, afterschool programs support diverse learners by providing myriad learning opportunities that address individual needs and help all children reach their full potential. With equity as the goal, defined in the ISBE Strategic Plan as having high expectations for every learner and providing supports and resources so each learner can meet those expectations, afterschool for all is the way to go!





## 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, 21st CCLCs use a variety of instructional approaches that engage and challenge students. Through tutoring, academic enrichment, and other activities, 21st 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 21st 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.





**Monday, May 2, 2022**

**3:00 P.M.–4:00 P.M. PRECONFERENCE**

**STUDENTS' PERSPECTIVES ON AFTERSCHOOL PARTICIPATION AND RECRUITMENT**

Jasmin Woolfolk, 21st CCLC Site Coordinator, Springfield Urban League, Springfield, IL

Panelists

Kyla Anderson, 12th grade student and national Afterschool Youth Ambassador, Southern Illinois University Edwardsville East St. Louis Charter High School, East St. Louis School District 189, East St. Louis, IL

La' Naiya Falconer, eighth grade student, Brooks Middle School, Valley View Community Unit School District 365U, Bolingbrook, IL

Alex James, sixth grade student, Brooks Middle School, Valley View Community Unit School District 365U, Bolingbrook, IL

Christian Kaufman, seventh grade student, Egyptian Middle School, School District 5, Tamms, IL

What motivates students to participate in the afterschool program? What can programs do to recruit more students? Afterschool participants in middle and high school share their views about what motivates them to participate in the 21st CCLC program and how to increase student recruitment.





# Tuesday, May 3, 2022

## 9:00 A.M.–10:30 A.M. OPENING SESSION

### STUDENT VOICES: WHAT I LIKE ABOUT AFTERSCHOOL

- Egyptian School District 5, Tamms, IL
- Harold Colbert Jones Memorial Community Center, Chicago Heights, IL
- Valley View Community Unit School District 365U, Romeoville, IL
- Venice Community Unit School District 3, Venice Township, IL

We asked elementary school students participating in the four 21st CCLC programs listed above to tell us about what they like about afterschool. Listen to what they told us.

### WELCOME AND GREETINGS

Shayla Grantham, Supervisor, Wellness Department, Illinois State Board of Education, Springfield, IL

Lacy Wood, Program Manager, Illinois Quality Afterschool at the American Institutes for Research, Austin, TX

### KEYNOTE PRESENTATION

### CREATING CONDITIONS TO SUPPORT AFTERSCHOOL FOR ALL

Shawn Ginwright, PhD, Professor of Education and Senior Research Associate, San Francisco State University, San Francisco, CA; Founder and CEO, Flourish Agenda, Inc., Oakland, CA

The most critical mainspring of social change isn't coalition building or problem analysis, it's healing: deep, whole, and systemic—inside and out. Dr. Ginwright's keynote examines the disproportionate impact of crises on already adversely affected communities and explores the roles that culture, agency, relationships, meaning, and aspirations play in creating conditions that support young people and the adults in their lives. When combined, these roles provide a roadmap for youth development professionals to provide context for healing within their organizations and supporting afterschool for all in their communities.





**10:30 A.M.–10:45 A.M.**

**BREAK**

**10:45 A.M.–11:45 A.M.**

**Concurrent Sessions I**

**STRAND II—CONTINUOUS IMPROVEMENT**

**FAMILY ENGAGEMENT VIA ZOOM WITH HANDS-ON LEGO AND ART CLUBS**

Arlene Sanders, Club Hub Instructor, Indian Prairie School District 204, Aurora, IL

Kimberly Brouch, Club Hub Instructor, Indian Prairie School District 204, Aurora, IL

Laura Lynne, Mixed Media Artist, Laura Lynne Art LLC, Aurora, IL

Steven Weniger, Key Accounts Manager, LEGO Education, St. Charles, IL

Indian Prairie’s Club Hub program began during the pandemic and featured hands-on elementary Zoom clubs to engage families. Schools are open, but we’re still Zooming! Club Hub’s Family LEGO and Art Zoom Clubs are a hit! Club Hub instructors will share lesson plans and materials used to engage more than 100 families, ranging from 9-week evening Zoom clubs to Zoom workshops offered during school breaks. Free LEGO Education sample kits are available to interested participants.

**CONNECTING THE DOTS AFTERSCHOOL**

Brianna Buchanan, 21st CCLC Site Coordinator, Project Success of Vermilion County, Danville, IL

Sadie Hofer, 21st CCLC Site Coordinator, Project Success of Vermilion County, Danville, IL

Imani Johnson, 21st CCLC Site Coordinator, Project Success of Vermilion County, Danville, IL

Lauren Trospen, 21st CCLC Site Coordinator, Project Success of Vermilion County, Danville, IL

Project Success team members will share resources and tips used to make the afterschool program run smoothly including strategies for scheduling day-to-day





activities, engaging students and families, and encouraging student voice. Learn how to employ creative ideas and games to gain student interest and keep them engaged.

## **LOCAL EVALUATION . . . NOW WHAT?**

Denise Buettner, 21st CCLC Coordinator, Cahokia Community Unit School District 187, Cahokia, IL

Stephanie Swanson, 21st CCLC Manager, Cahokia CUSD 187, Cahokia, IL

Tanya Mitchell, Deputy Superintendent, Cahokia CUSD 187, Cahokia, IL

Have you ever wondered what to do each year with your local evaluation? We are here to help. Join us to analyze, use, and understand all the data. By the end of the session, you will have the tools to create and implement action plans. Discover the importance of follow through to improve your program. Bring your own data for immediate application of the tools shared during this session.

## **BEST PRACTICES FOR 21ST CCLC PROGRAM SUCCESS**

Michael Hannan, 21st CCLC Community of Practice Facilitator, Cook County & Surrounding Areas

Tiffanie Hobbs, 21st CCLC Community of Practice Facilitator, Southern Region

Kim Sellers, 21st CCLC Community of Practice Facilitator, Central Region

Rachel Shields, 21st CCLC Community of Practice Facilitator, Northern Region

Hot topics affecting 21st CCLC programs in 2022 include staffing, student recruitment, family engagement, and budgetary spend down. During this session, join your 21st CCLC community of practice facilitators for a discussion of best practices and strategies that programs across the state are using to navigate these issues successfully.

**11:45 A.M.–12:30 P.M.**

**LUNCH BREAK**





**12:30 P.M.–1:30 P.M.**

**Concurrent Sessions II**

**STRAND II—CONTINUOUS IMPROVEMENT**

**A ONE-STOP-SHOP: A TOOLKIT FOR YOU, YOUR PROGRAMS,  
AND YOUR TEAMS**

Gislene Tasayco, Technical Assistance Consultant, American Institutes for Research, Gaithersburg, MD

Are you a new afterschool professional? Have you been in the world of afterschool for as long as you can remember? Regardless of how much experience you already have, join this interactive session to connect with peers and learn about resources, tools, and tips to strengthen your efforts. We will break down how to make the Beyond the Bell tools work for you, your program, and your teams as you navigate the world of afterschool and its role in advancing equity.

**CREATING A POSITIVE LEARNING ENVIRONMENT**

Shanika Peck, Lead Education Specialist, You for Youth (Y4Y), Mt. Laurel, NJ

Yana List, Education Specialist, You for Youth (Y4Y), Mt. Laurel, NJ

What is the culture and climate of your 21st CCLC program? Is your program a positive place where all students have opportunities to learn and grow? If you're not sure about your answer, this is the session for you! We'll identify the characteristics of a positive learning environment, review strategies for building trusting relationships, and plan for positive behavioral management. This session is a great learning opportunity for all 21st CCLC staff. We will highlight many free Y4Y resources that you can leverage to build a positive learning environment for your entire program.

**BUILDING A TRANSFORMATIVE ORGANIZATIONAL CULTURE**

Fausto Alejandro Lopez, Youth Development Specialist, American Institutes for Research, Chicago, IL

Steven Rosado, Restorative Practice Specialist, The Praxis Institute, Chicago, IL

To transform organizational culture and lead inclusive teams requires focus on critical areas including self- and social awareness, collaboration, transparency, and trust. This session engages participants in collaborative practices for establishing an inclusive and







collaborative culture. Through this workshop participants will learn how to deepen connections and trust within their team; explore individual and collective values; support meaningful connections across and within identity groups; and discuss leadership styles and power dynamics.

## **STRAND III—AFTERSCHOOL ENRICHMENT**

### **CIVIC LEARNING AND ENGAGEMENT**

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

Join the You for Youth (Y4Y) technical assistance team to learn the ins-and-outs of Civic Learning and Engagement; including how to plan and implement projects that enhance the knowledge and skills of students. Come explore methods and strategies that encourage student voice and dialogue in the out-of-school time space. Participants will leave ready to design and facilitate youth-led CLE projects.

## **Wednesday, May 4, 2022**

**9:00 A.M.–10:00 A.M. GENERAL SESSION**

### **A MESSAGE FROM ISBE**

Krish Mohip, Deputy Operational Education Officer, Illinois State Board of Education, Chicago, IL

### **GENERAL SESSION KEYNOTE**

#### **IT STARTS WITH ME**

Nathan Houston, Founder of #iAmImpact; Director of Youth Development, Mentor CA, Sacramento, CA

Believing that every individual is uniquely gifted to affect the world, Nathan Houston shares his passion for afterschool and the principles behind the #iAmImpact philosophy that inspires us to be all that we can be and to understand the power of our connectedness.

**10:00 A.M.–10:15 A.M.**

**BREAK**





**10:15 A.M.–11:15 A.M.**

## **STRAND II—CONTINUOUS IMPROVEMENT**

### **A ONE-STOP-SHOP: A TOOLKIT FOR YOU, YOUR PROGRAMS, AND YOUR TEAMS *(repeated session)***

Gislene Tasayco, Technical Assistance Consultant, American Institutes for Research, Gaithersburg, MD

Are you a new afterschool professional? Have you been in the world of afterschool for as long as you can remember? Regardless of how much experience you already have, join this interactive session to connect with peers and learn about resources, tools, and tips to strengthen your efforts. We will break down how to make the Beyond the Bell tools work for you, your program, and your teams as you navigate the world of afterschool and its role in advancing equity.

### **ADVANCING EQUITY AND YOUTH ENGAGEMENT THROUGH COLLECTIVE IMPACT**

Lynn Sobolov, Education/Out-of-School-Time (OST) Consultant, Morgantown, WV

Take your collaborative partnerships to the next level during this interactive workshop focusing on youth and community engagement. Learn how you can implement the Collective Impact process to address youth needs and gain an understanding of the Youth Participatory Action Research (YPAR) approach to support youth leadership in this endeavor.

### **METHODS TO CAPTURE STUDENT VOICE AND CHOICE**

Shanika Peck, Lead Education Specialist, You for Youth (Y4Y), Mt. Laurel, NJ

Yana List, Education Specialist, You for Youth (Y4Y), Mt. Laurel, NJ

How can 21st CCLC programs effectively capture student voice and choice data to drive activity selection and development? Join the U.S. Department of Education's You for Youth (Y4Y) technical assistance team as we discuss different methods to capturing student voice and choice information. We'll also discuss how to incorporate and embed that student input during program activities.





## **REFOCUS YOUR LENS: VIEWING BEHAVIOR AS COMMUNICATION**

Nili Mathews, Training Manager, Kids Included Together (KIT), San Diego, CA

There are many ways to look at behavior. During this session, participants will explore four common lenses used to view and think about behavior, focusing on how to view behavior as communication and accurately interpret the messages children and youth send with their behavior. What changes when we use, “Behavior is Communication” as our perspective? Recommended for staff working with school-age children and youth wishing to enhance their inclusive practices.

**11:15 A.M.–11:30 A.M.**

**BREAK**

**11:30 A.M.–12:30 P.M.**

## **STRAND II—CONTINUOUS IMPROVEMENT**

### **EVALUATION AND EQUITY: STRATEGIES AND PERSPECTIVES**

Sophia Mansori, Research Scientist, EDC, Waltham, MA

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

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

During this session, the statewide evaluation team at EDC will share information about *culturally responsive evaluation* and strategies for implementing an evaluation that does not just consider but values the diverse perspectives and experiences of program participants. EDC will share approaches to using your evaluation data to understand your programs’ progress with respect to inclusion and meeting the needs of diverse students and families.

## **HEALTH AND WELLNESS WITH Y4Y**

Shanika Peck, Lead Education Specialist, You for Youth (Y4Y), Mt. Laurel, NJ

Yana List, Education Specialist, You for Youth (Y4Y), Mt. Laurel, NJ

What do you think of when you hear “health and wellness” Every person has their own definition and how it applies to their own life. During this session, we’ll help you develop your own sense of health and wellness along with an awareness of its place in





out-of-school-time programs. Supporting health and wellness is crucial for students' academic and personal wellbeing, but there often isn't enough time to focus on these concepts during the school day. We'll talk about how out-of-school-time initiatives can supplement school-day offerings to promote student, staff, and community wellbeing. We'll also address how you can leverage school-day partnerships to create meaningful, standards-aligned health and wellness programming.

## **IT'S IN THE BAG: CREATING A BAG OF TRICKS FOR SUCCESS WITH REAL-WORLD CHALLENGES**

Nili Mathews, Training Manager, Kids Included Together (KIT), San Diego, CA

Working with children requires flexibility and thinking on your feet. You will learn about tangible tools that you can use to support children and youth with disabilities or behavioral challenges, as well as those who just may be having a rough day. This session also introduces tools you can use when you feel stuck, and programming isn't going as planned. Recommended for staff working with school-age children and youth wishing to enhance their inclusive practices.

## **SOCIAL EMOTIONAL ARTS & RADICAL COMMUNITY HEALING (S.E.A.R.C.H.)**

Fausto Alejandro Lopez, Youth Development Specialist, American Institutes for Research, Chicago, IL

Steven Rosado, Restorative Practice Specialist, The Praxis Institute, Chicago, IL

Social Emotional Arts & Radical Community Healing engages participants in liberation psychology and restorative practices, including the Truth, Racial Healing & Transformation Youth Institute (TRHT-YI) model. This session highlights strategies that empower individual and collective well-being through engaging in a Community of Praxis. Participants will learn and work collaboratively to explore culturally responsive healing practices that infuse arts, restorative practices, SEL, and a PYD approach for ongoing work with staff and young people.

**12:30 P.M.**

**CONFERENCE ADJOURNED**

