



# Illinois 21<sup>st</sup> CCLC Fall Virtual Conference

December 8 and 9, 2020

**LEARNING AND LEADING WITH PURPOSE**



**CONFERENCE AGENDA**





**Welcome** to the Nita M. Lowey 21<sup>st</sup> Century Community Learning Centers (CCLC) Virtual Fall Conference 2020, 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.



## Looking ahead to 2021, we carry forward all that we have learned in 2020:

- How to stay connected to our students and their families in spite of
- circumstances that may keep us apart
- How to be resilient in the face of significant challenges
- How to be good partners with and on behalf of our schools
- How to deliver quality afterschool programming in varying modes of operation

Our conference theme, Learning and Leading with Purpose, reinforces the importance of applying what we have learned—and what we continue learning daily—to strengthen our sense of purpose, possibility, and commitment. We encourage you to share what you learn here with your program staff and partners, building the ability of all team members to lead with purpose.





## 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 during the afterschool hours, 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. 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.





## December 8, 2020

9:00 AM – 10:30 AM

OPENING SESSION

### STUDENT PERFORMANCE

Damaryan Benton, 2019 Illinois Youth of the Year, Illinois Alliance of Boys & Girls Clubs, Elgin, IL  
A member of the Boys & Girls Club of Elgin since he was six years old, Benton participated in the afterschool program until he graduated from high school and then volunteered there his first year of college. During his senior year of high school, he won the Boys & Girls Clubs of America's state honor, Illinois Youth of the Year. Benton is currently a sophomore majoring in communications at Judson University. Learn about Damaryan's story and enjoy his performance of the poem "If" by Rudyard Kipling.

### WELCOME AND GREETINGS

Carmen Ayala, Ph.D., State Superintendent of Education, Illinois State Board of Education, Springfield, IL

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

### KEYNOTE PRESENTATION

#### LEARNING AND LEADING WITH PURPOSE

Bertice Berry, Ph.D., Sociologist, Savannah, GA

Using her unique blend of humor and storytelling, Dr. Berry will uplift and inspire us to lead with purpose. Her presentation will inform us how to use the tools of our past to build and create a brighter future. You will laugh, learn, and leave with a renewed sense of purpose.

10:30 AM – 10:50 AM

BREAK

10:50 AM – 11:50 AM

### Concurrent Sessions I

#### STRAND I – ACADEMICS AFTERSCHOOL

#### TOP 5 LITERACY STRATEGIES FOR PERSEVERANCE AND ENGAGEMENT (GRADES 3 & UP)

Kathi Rhodus, Intervention/Transition Teacher, Carlinville Intermediate School, Carlinville, IL

It is crucial to engage students we encounter in our programs by helping them get excited about learning, but it is also important to teach our students how to persevere through the texts and tasks that may be challenging. This session will delve into five literacy strategies to help you help your students engage and persevere with all content. Digital and in-person resources will be shared.





## **STRAND II – CONTINUOUS IMPROVEMENT**

### **SEEKING SUCCESS: AN EXPLORATION OF REMOTE ENGAGEMENT**

Michael J. Hannan, 21st CCLC Program Director, Alternative Schools Network, Chicago, IL

Join us in exploring strategies for engagement, online tools, relevant resources and more. Since May, Alternative Schools Network and NEIU's Center for College Access and Success have collaborated to create a peer community of teachers, afterschool instructors, and mentors to share best practices for remote learning. Today we will share these lessons and practice techniques for creating supportive, engaged learning communities in out-of-school time programs.

### **CREATIVITY IN LEADERSHIP**

Brad Lademann, Associate Director of Quality Initiatives, Missouri Afterschool Network, Columbia, MO

Whether you are the leader of an entire organization or leading an afterschool site, leadership matters. Unfortunately, leadership training in afterschool settings is not always a priority. We are often thrown into leadership positions with little or no preparation, and then we sink or swim. Join us to learn about five essential practices of leadership and how creativity fits into our leadership roles.

## **STRAND III – AFTERSCHOOL ENRICHMENT**

### **LEARN TO SERVE, SERVE TO LEARN! IMPLEMENTING SERVICE LEARNING IN YOUR OST PROGRAM**

Clint Darr, Resource Center Coordinator, Missouri Afterschool Network, Columbia, MO

Besides being engaging and fun, service learning projects improve character, academic outcomes, and social emotional skills, and promote connectedness to the school and community. Out-of-school time is the perfect time to put this awesome learning experience to use! Attend this session to gain an understanding of the service learning standards and learn the user friendly PARC model. Brainstorm, share, and strategize with colleagues on adapting service learning to a virtual environment as well.

11:50 AM – 12:30 PM

LUNCH BREAK

12:30 PM – 1:30 PM

### **Concurrent Sessions II**

## **STRAND I – ACADEMICS AFTERSCHOOL**

### **ENCOURAGING EXCITEMENT IN MATHEMATICS**

Jeanine M. Sheppard, Math/Science Content Specialist, Center for Education Initiatives, Illinois State University, Freeburg, IL

So many of our students feel defeated by math. Timed tests, lack of relevance, and shallow understanding quickly lead to frustration. This session will explore strategies that help revise students' mindsets and get them excited about mathematical thinking.

## **STRAND II – CONTINUOUS IMPROVEMENT**

### **52 CARD PICK-UP: FAMILY ENGAGEMENT**

Kim Sellers, 21st CCLC Program Director, Bureau-Henry-Stark ROE 28, Atkinson, IL

Lisa Brackett, Parent Liaison, Bureau-Henry-Stark ROE 28, Atkinson, IL

Terrie Landwehr, Program Development Specialist, Bureau-Henry-Stark ROE 28, Atkinson, IL





Engaging families can be a big challenge, even though we know there are great benefits when families are involved in their child's learning experience. Learn how the Bureau-Henry-Stark 21<sup>st</sup> CCLC program, prompted by local evaluation results, increased the active participation of its families with fun engagement activities that help families support student learning.

### **OUR STORY**

Brad Lademann, Associate Director of Quality Initiatives, Missouri Afterschool Network, Columbia, MO

Do you ever wonder about the people around you...where are they from, how did they grow up, what do they value and why? Each of us is living our own story, but our stories are connected. Join us as we explore our stories and how they are connected. We will work on developing a sense of wonder about the stories of those around us and the students we serve.

### **EVERYONE'S AN ASSET BUILDER**

Clint Darr, Resource Center Coordinator, Missouri Afterschool Network, Columbia, MO

Developmental Assets® are a collection of 40 research-based strengths and supports that enable young people to develop into successful, contributing adults. Everyone's an Asset Builder is a highly motivating, interactive workshop which explores the positive paths anyone can take to increase the number of assets in the lives of children and youth. Developed by the Search Institute, this session will introduce you to this framework and show you the powerful role you and your staff can have as asset builders in the lives of youth.

## **December 9, 2020**

9:30 AM – 10:30 AM

### **GENERAL SESSION**

#### **CONTINUING REGIONAL FORUM CONVERSATIONS: EXPANDING THE ILLINOIS 21<sup>ST</sup> CCLC COMMUNITY OF PRACTICE**

Michael J. Hannan, 21<sup>st</sup> CCLC Community of Practice Facilitator, Cook County and 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

Illinois 21<sup>st</sup> CCLC Community of Practice facilitators will host a conversation about how best to deliver a quality afterschool program, even in the midst of a pandemic. Learn how programs are operating remotely, in-person, or in some hybrid fashion to meet the needs of Illinois students and families. The discussion will focus on integrating K–12 and afterschool programming, cultural responsiveness, and professional development including motivation strategies used to achieve desired program outcomes.

10:30 AM – 10:50 AM

BREAK





10:50 AM – 11:50 AM

### **Concurrent Sessions I**

## **STRAND I – ACADEMICS AFTERSCHOOL**

### **INSPIRING SCIENTIFIC THINKING**

Jeanine M. Sheppard, Math/Science Content Specialist, Center for Education Initiatives, Illinois State University, Freeburg, IL

Youth have a lot of questions about the world we live in. Often we unintentionally train our students to stop asking so many questions. What if we used that curiosity to catalyze learning instead? Science is all about making sense of the natural world. This session will share strategies that use students' questions to inspire learning and a love for science.

### **TOP 3 LITERACY STRATEGIES TO ENGAGE OUR EARLY READERS (GRADES K-2)**

Kathi Rhodus, Intervention/Transition Teacher, Carlinville Intermediate School, Carlinville, IL

Many of our Kindergarten through grade 2 students are at different places in learning to read. Tapping into our students' curiosity can help us get their attention, but what practices not only encourage curiosity, but build literacy skills? This session will dive into three strategies that can make a big difference in your program. Digital and in-person resources will be shared.

## **STRAND II – CONTINUOUS IMPROVEMENT**

### **CACFP AT-RISK AFTERSCHOOL MEALS**

Shaista Shaikh, Principal Consultant, Nutrition Department, Illinois State Board of Education, Springfield, IL  
USDA's Child and Adult Care Food Program (CACFP) plays a vital role in improving the quality of day care and making it more affordable for many low-income families. The At-Risk Afterschool Meals component of the CACFP offers federal funding to afterschool programs that serve healthy meals and snacks to children and teenagers who participate in afterschool programs in low-income areas.

### **HOW TO BUILD AND SUSTAIN VIRTUAL FAMILY AND COMMUNITY CONNECTIONS**

Renee Hawthorne, Family Engagement and Enrichment Manager, Park Forest-Chicago Heights School District 163, Park Forest, IL

This session will address how families develop awareness of and learn to manage their homeschool Social Emotional E-Learning (SEL) hotspots! This session is intended for any educator interested in building a more robust parent engagement "following" and will provide insight on how to achieve a consistent positive family and community connection. Participants will obtain strategies that can be used at home and on various social media platforms. This professional learning opportunity will help your program improve family and community connections, student readiness to learn, and academic performance.

12:00 PM – 12:30 PM

### **PROJECT DIRECTORS' MEETING**

Illinois State Board of Education Staff

12:30 PM

CONFERENCE ADJOURNED

