



After School Announcements

Bringing together those who serve Maine youth

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I hope you all can join us for our **press conference** at the Welcome Center at the State House in Augusta on **Tuesday, March 27, 2007 at Noon**. Scheduled speakers include Commissioner Susan Gendron, Rep. Chris Barstow, Rep. Carol Grose and Deb Chase.

Amanda

Quality

Improve Family Engagement in After-School Programs

By Ellen Mayer and Holly M. Kreider

This recent PTA article highlights the growing evidence of the benefit of parental involvement in afterschool programs. It describes strategies for engaging elementary school families in ASPs and provides promising practices for those serving ethnically diverse families. Read more at:

http://www.pta.org/pr_magazine_article_details_1166223635406.html

Everyone Knows a Future Bully

From Exchange EveryDay March 8, 2007

I encourage everyone to visit <http://www.voicesforchildren.ca> and download their February 2007 publication entitled, "**Binoculars on Bullying: A new solution to protect and connect children**" by Dr. Debra Pepler of York University and Dr. Wendy Craig of Queen's University. These researchers are internationally-renowned for their work on bullying and they also happen to be my colleagues.

The article discusses **bullying in the context of relationships**. Too often, we consider bullying as a set of behaviors that have little to do with relationships. Yet, the research is clear that the solution to bullying is relationship-based. Here are several strategies for adults to build healthy relationships with children and to prevent bullying. These strategies are appropriate for inclusion in adult education courses focused on positive guidance with young children.

- Protect children from bullying by giving them strategies to make friends in positive ways
- Turn children from negative into positive leaders
- Make a distinction between "telling an adult to get children into trouble" versus "telling an adult to get a child out of trouble"
- Structure groups to support pro-social networks
- Be a role model
- Visit Canadian Initiative for the Prevention of Bullying at <http://www.cipb.ca>

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Engaging Employers in Youth Workforce Development Activities

Based on interviews with youth program providers, employers and policy-makers, this paper explores the inclusion of employers in workforce preparation activities for disadvantaged youth. It discusses the degree to which youth and employers are prepared to engage with each other, how race and culture influence the entire experience, and whether program and policy efforts to increase employer engagement are in scale with youth program demand. The research highlights important disconnects between program providers and employers, and discusses implications for program development. Read the complete report, [Making Connections: Engaging Employers In Preparing Chicago's Youth for the Workforce](#), by Jan DeCoursey and Ada Skyles.

Events

April 11-13: Mobilizing New Mentors through Faith- and Community-Based Collaborations.

MentorYouth.com will assist and challenge mentoring programs to explore avenues for recruiting new mentors, particularly through faith- and community-based collaborations. Location: Nashville, TN. For more information, visit www.mentoryouth.com/training or call 1.877.500.MENTOR.

April 19-20: 2007 Center for Summer Learning National Conference. Join summer program providers, teachers, youth workers, managers, researchers and policy makers in the only national forum focused exclusively on improving the quality of summer programming! Location: Sheraton Atlanta Hotel, Atlanta, GA. Details at: <http://www.summerlearning.org/events/conference.html>.

April 27: 5th Annual PEAR (Program in Education, Afterschool and Resiliency) Conference: The Whole Child, The Whole Day will be held April 27, 2007 at the Harvard Medical School Conference Center, Boston. FMI <http://www.pearweb.org/conferences/pear/fifth/index.html>

May 1: CNCS/LEARNS Institute for Youth- and Education-Focused Volunteer Programs.

Mentoring, tutoring, and out-of-school time professionals are invited to explore training and volunteer development and program development. Location: Embassy Suites Hotel, Tampa, FL. For more details, visit: <http://www.regonline.com/120560>.

May 3-4: 2007 PEAK Afterschool Workshop Series: Homework & Technology. Sessions will present ideas for academic enrichment in youth-serving programs. Location: St. Paul, MN. To register, visit: <http://www.mcrel.org/peak/>

May 17-19: Annual After School Leadership Conference. This conference will involve learning, sharing, networking, and other professional development opportunities for all levels of after school programming. Location: Wyndham Palm Springs Hotel & Palm Springs Convention Center, Palm Springs, CA. Information and registration: <http://www.sdcoe.net/rtac/> .

July 9-13: Discovering Community: Students, Digital Media, and Place-Based Learning.

Participants will get hands-on experience with community-based research and documentary production. Location: Vermont Technical College. Contact: Greg Sharrow, 802-388-4964, gsharrow@vermontfolklifecenter.org, <http://www.discoveringcommunity.org>

July 9-13: NIOST Summer Seminars 2007. The National Institute on Out-of-School Time offers professional training based on the latest research on children and youth and emerging trends affecting the OST field. Location: John Hancock Conference Center, Boston, MA. For registration and information, visit: <http://www.niost.org/training/sumsem07.html>.

July 24-28: Community Works Institute on Service-Learning. This national event has helped educators from over 30 states and abroad work together to put service-learning best practices into action. Location: Shelburne Farms, Vermont. Contact: Joe Brooks, 802-655-5918, jbrooks@vermontcommunityworks.org, www.vermontcommunityworks.org .

Purpose:

To enable every child to have access to quality, inclusive, affordable after school programming that meets the needs of the child, the family and the community.

Vision:

Every school-age child in Maine will have access to quality; inclusive, affordable programs during out-of-school time that meet the needs of the child, the family and the community.

Network Goals:

- 1. Foster statewide, regional, and local partnerships through clear communication among policymakers and providers, in order to coordinate services across the state.*
- 2. Assist in securing resources needed to develop new after school programs and sustain existing programs.*
- 3. Assist with training, technical assistance and coordination to ensure that programs are inclusive, high quality, and meet the needs of children, families and communities.*

Events Con't.

Techbridge Summer Training Institute in Oakland, CA from August 6-8, 2007. This workshop will teach participants all facets of starting and successfully running a program in technology, science and engineering for girls. Visit http://www.techbridgegirls.org/programs_institute.html for registration; \$750; for two participants from the same organization, the fee is \$1,000. Due to the hands-on nature of the curriculum, we highly encourage two participants from your organization to attend the training. Registration deadline is April 1, 2007. FMI, please contact Linda Kekelis at lskekelis@aol.com or 510.777.9170 ext. 301.

Grants

The Administration for Children and Families (ACF), Office of Community Services (OCS), announces that applications will be accepted for new grants pursuant to the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) Secretary's Compassion Capital Fund (CCF) authorized under Title XI Section 1110 of the Social Security Act governing Social Services Research and Demonstration activities and the Department of Labor, HHS, and Education, and Related Agencies Appropriations Act, 2006, Public Law (P.L.) 109-149. **OCS will award funds to help build the capacity of faith-based and community organizations that address the needs of distressed communities.** A distressed community is defined as a neighborhood or geographic community with an unemployment rate and/or poverty rate equal to or greater than the State or national rate. The Targeted Capacity Building Program will focus on capacity building among organizations addressing the following programmatic service areas: **help for at-risk youth**; help for the homeless; marriage education and preparation services to help couples who choose marriage for themselves develop the skills and knowledge to form and sustain healthy marriages; or social services to those living in rural communities. FMI: <http://www.acf.hhs.gov/grants/open/HHS-2007-ACF-OCS-IJ-0036.html>