



Exciting Professional Development Opportunities Await Afterschool Professionals in Arkansas

The Division of Child Care and Early Childhood Education discern that professional development plays a vital role in supporting quality afterschool programs. Providers who have participated in education and training opportunities are more likely to deliver quality programs that contribute to positive youth outcomes.¹ The American Recovery and Reinvestment Act provides a unique opportunity for afterschool professionals to take part in some exciting professional development opportunities that have come about due to enhanced funding of the Child Care and Development Fund (CCDF) administered by the Department of Human Services. ASU Childhood Services along with partners of the Arkansas Out of School Network are excited to be partnering together to deliver the following face-to-face trainings that address a wide range of topics important to afterschool professionals.

- **An Introduction to the 40 Developmental Assets** - Grounded in extensive research in youth development, resiliency, and prevention, the 40 Developmental Assets represent the relationships, opportunities, and personal qualities that young people need to avoid risks and to thrive. Because of its basis in research and its proven effectiveness, the Developmental Assets framework has become the single most widely used approach to positive youth development in the United States. On-site training will be delivered in a two hour format and will outline what the developmental assets are, what they look like in action, and how to create an intentionally rich asset based afterschool program.
- **Creating Culturally Competent Afterschool Programs** - This training will introduce the core elements of creating a culturally competent afterschool program. These core elements will provide some foundational knowledge that can be applied to how afterschool programs create their program environment, how they build relationships with families, connect families to community resources, and create meaningful and relevant family/child activities.
- **Adventures in Peacemaking: Conflict Resolution Activities for School-Age Programs** - This full day training will be targeted at helping afterschool and summer program staff with methods of teambuilding and conflict reduction that they can use with the children in their programs.
- **Arkansas 4H Afterschool Essentials Training** - An introductory level training experience for the basic and intermediate level afterschool provider and will focus on three components: the essential elements of positive youth development, an introduction to Experiential Learning, and a hands-on learning experience focusing on content delivery using the experiential learning model.
- **Arkansas 4H Out of School Time Trainings** targeting afterschool leaders that address the following core areas: Experiential Learning, Day Camps, Science, Technology, Engineering, and Math (STEM) Education, and the ExCel Leadership Challenge Course.

- **Save the Children Literacy Training-** Content will address the strategies, tools, and hands-on practice needed to implement three key components of the Save the Children model literacy program: read-aloud, fluency building, and reading together activities for emergent readers.

In addition to the above face-to-face trainings that will be offered, the Arkansas Out of School Network will be working with the Colorado Afterschool Network to develop three online trainings that will address the 40 Developmental Assets. One will serve as an introduction to the 40 assets and the other two online trainings will address a different facet of the assets to be determined at a later date.

Stay tuned for more information about when one of these professional development opportunities might be coming to a community near you by checking the TAPP Registry at <http://professionalregistry.astate.edu>. Trainings are anticipated to begin in August 2009. For questions regarding these exciting professional development opportunities contact Jennifer Harris at jenharris@astate.edu. Thank you to the Division of Child Care and Early Education for their continual commitment to supporting the professional development needs of afterschool educators in Arkansas!

1. Beth M Miller, Pathways to Success for Youth: What Counts in After School: Massachusetts After-School Research Study Report (Boston, Mass.: United Way of Massachusetts Bay, 2005), at: http://supportunitedway.org/files/MARS-Report_0.pdf; and Susan Bodilly and Megan Beckett, Making Out-Of-School Time Matter: Evidence for an Action Agenda (Santa Monica, Calif.: RAND Corporation, 2005).