



September 22 – 24, 2021
Urbandale, IA

CONFERENCE THEME:

**Health and Wellness of
the Whole Child**

Wednesday September 22, 2021

10:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m. Technical Assistance

2022-2023 21st Century Community Learning Center RFA · *Main Ballroom*

Vic Jaras, Iowa Department of Education; Crystal Hall, Iowa Afterschool Alliance (IAA)

Join us for this free technical assistance session covering the updates and changes to the new online Request for Applications (RFA) process for the Nita M. Lowey 21st Century Community Learning Center program. These grants are designed to support before school, after school and summer programs serving youth who meet a 40% Free or Reduced Price Lunch criteria.

12:00 to 1:00 p.m. Registration

1:00 to 4:00 p.m. Preconference

Healthy OST: Integrating Out-of-School Time Across the Whole Schools, Whole Communities, And Whole Child Framework · *Main Ballroom*

Crystal Hall, IAA

Join us for an interactive discussion about how your out-of-school time program can support the health and well-being of the children you serve. This past year has been a roller coaster of health concerns, and we are forever changed because of it. Come learn how we can incorporate easy-to-use daily interactions to support the physical and mental health of youth in your program.

Thursday September 23, 2021

7:30 to 8:45 a.m. Registration & Breakfast

8:45 to 9:00 a.m. Welcome and Opening Address

Main Ballroom

Vic Jaras, Iowa Department of Education

Cassie Gerst, Burlington Community School District

Conference Emcee & Chair of the 21CCLC Professional Development Committee

9:00 to 10:00 a.m. Keynote Speaker

Turning Your Dreams into Reality · *Main Ballroom*

Josh Ehn, Oelwein Community School District

Each and every one of us dreams of a better world for ourselves and for those we care about. As educators, we dream of better schools and school systems for our students. Ehn will share stories and tried and true methods of how to form the building block to turn your dreams into reality.

10:00 to 10:15 a.m. Break

Visit vendors; water and coffee available

10:15 to 11:30 a.m. Breakout Sessions

Creating Action Plans · *Salon A*

Josh Ehn, Oelwein Community School District

Learn about creating short-term action plans and long-term strategic plans with Josh Ehn, Superintendent of Oelwein Community Schools. He will be speaking to the importance of details, overcoming obstacles and writing plans when you aren't sure of all the steps yet.

Team Building and Staff Conflict · *Bennigan's Room*

Cassie Gerst, Burlington Community School District

Join us for an interactive, hands-on, and active session where we will utilize activities to generate conversation and staff solutions. Participants will learn different activities that can be utilized to build a staff team, discussion when the team is having conflict, and when team building can be used to improve communication among the staff.

Together We RISE: Building Pathways of Resilience, Hope and Well-Being · *Heartland South*

Jennie Null, Tanager Place

World events beginning in 2020 took a toll on all humans and human serving systems, including those in the youth and family serving fields. As we transition to new times and new experiences, we are all searching for how to help our youth, families, and systems cultivate resilience and well-being. This presentation provides a pathway to creating resilient and hope-filled environments for youth using the RISE: Wellness & Resilience Framework™. The RISE: Wellness & Resilience Framework takes a holistic approach to creating environments and relationships that are trauma-informed, resilience oriented and restorative. The framework is evidence-informed and uses brain science to create daily experiences aimed to rewire the brain and offer healing. RISE: Wellness & Resilience Framework™ is rooted in the power of Relationships and provides insight to increase opportunities to foster the Indicators of well-being and highlight the human conditions needed to enhance resilience and wellness. RISE incorporates elements related to Social and emotional development and Enhancing the connection of the whole person; mind, body and spirit.

Implementing Project Based Learning with Y4Y · *Indiana Room*

Jenn Conner and Yana List, You 4 Youth

Project Based Learning is an inquiry-based approach to learning that emphasizes student voice and choice. Students pose questions and explore answers through hands-on activities. Learn how You for Youth (Y4Y) resources can support you as you work with students to craft a driving question, facilitate an investigation, and work towards a culminating event while building students' knowledge and 21st Century skills.

11:30 a.m. to 12:45 p.m. Lunch and Awards · *Main Ballroom*

Presentation: America After 3pm Data Award Winners announced

*Matt Ohman, Siouxland Human Investment Partnership
Cassie Gerst, Conference Emcee*

12:45 to 2:00 p.m. Breakout Sessions

Building Diverse Communities Through Health and Wellness Programs · *Salon A*

Dylan DeClerk and Melissa Clarke-Wharff, Can Play

Melissa Clarke-Wharff and Dylan DeClerk, two experts with two decades worth of expertise in breaking down barriers to programming and participation for vulnerable populations, share a few steps they've taken to make Can Play's health and wellness programming diverse, accessible, inclusive and equitable for thousands of people. In addition, they will share some of the unique ways their organization approaches community collaboration and why it's been important to the growth of Can Play. During this engaging and interactive session, you will have time to brainstorm potential improvements that your organization can make or collaborations you might be able to pursue to break down financial, physical, cognitive, emotional or chronic health care barriers in your own programming. Note: Although one of our primary focuses is health and wellness at Can Play, any kind of programming that would like to be more inclusive or accessible could benefit from participating in this session.

AmeriCorps and Afterschool Partnerships · *Bennigan's Room*

Jamie Orozco Nagel, Volunteer Iowa

Afterschool and summer youth programs around Iowa have found creative ways to use AmeriCorps members to expand and enhance their services. Discover ways that your program can partner with AmeriCorps to provide more opportunities to the youth that you serve. The presentation will also walk you through the steps needed to apply for different types of AmeriCorps resources.

Launch into STEM with the Million Girls Moonshot · *Heartland South*

Emilee Harris, Iowa Afterschool Alliance

In 2020, the Iowa Afterschool Alliance was awarded a grant through the Million Girls Moonshot. This initiative supports programs and networks to engage more female youth and youth of color in STEM through out-of-school time programming. Join us for a discussion on what the Iowa Afterschool Alliance has been up to with MGM in the past year and what we plan to roll out in the coming months! This presentation will also include an overview of the STEM offerings from the Mizzen by Mott app.

Developing Strategic Partnerships with Y4Y · *Indiana Room*

Jenn Conner and Yana List, You 4 Youth

What makes a partnership effective? How do you enrich or build on existing partnerships to strengthen your program? This session will review Y4Y tools and resources designed to help out-of-school time programs develop and improve relationships with schools, community- and faith-based organizations, and other partners. Learn how to identify your needs, find partners, and create and maintain partnerships that will help you sustain your program. Please bring a laptop, tablet or Internet-accessible device to explore Y4Y during the session.

2:00 to 2:15 p.m. Break

Visit vendors; water and coffee available

2:15 to 3:30 p.m. Breakout Sessions

Service Learning 101 + Assessing Your Service Learning Capacity · *Salon A*

Crystal Hall, Iowa Afterschool Alliance

We all know that when youth volunteer, they become stronger members of their communities. Now imagine what could be accomplished through a youth service program! Come learn the difference between volunteer experiences and true youth service learning. We will also introduce a curriculum for consideration, a rubric for self-assessment, and ways to further support your staff and youth at your program site.

Farm to Butter: STEM and Literacy Through Agriculture · *Bennigan's Room*

Cathryn Carney, Iowa Agriculture Literacy Foundation

In this breakout session, participants will develop ways to implement the My Family Farm books into an afterschool program by gathering tools to enrich student understanding of STEM and literacy concepts. Participants will engage in hands-on activities that are time efficient and extend the learning opportunity of all students as they learn about dairy production. Through the Build a Calf activity, participants will develop ways to incorporate science into an afterschool program while also providing real-life math relationships. Participants will design their own cow and make connections to dairy production as they germinate seeds and engineer butter.

Help! I have to Fill the Next 10-15 Minutes! · *Heartland South*

Gail Castillo and Earl McAlexander, ISU Extension and Outreach

Need an ice breaker? Have just a couple of minutes to fill before the next activity? Need some fun in your lesson? Join us in a fun-filled session where you will be actively engaged in learning new ice breakers, team-building activities, and games to take home and use with many age groups. No sitting and snoozing through this one! Participants will experience a variety of activities that build fun and engagement into afterschool hours:

- Learn, or be refreshed, on no prop or few prop ice breakers, team building activities, and games just for fun.
- Learn some recreation ideas that can lead to powerful lessons.
- Leave with a list of activities to use in your programming.

Creating a Positive Learning Environment with Y4Y · *Indiana Room*

Jenn Conner and Yana List, You 4 Youth

In this session, the US Department of Education's You for Youth (Y4Y) Technical Assistance Team will dig into defining and assessing your organization's culture and climate. Explore how a program's vision, mission, and core values affect the climate of that program, and how to build a positive culture that is conducive to learning. We'll also review how to write culture and climate statements.

3:30 to 3:45 p.m. Treat Break

Visit vendors; water and coffee available

Please join us in thanking our sponsor for this year's conference!



3:45 to 5:00 p.m. Breakout Sessions

Understanding Mindsets • *Salon A*

Stacey Kimberlin, CultureALL

Chances are your students and colleagues have life experiences that are quite different from your own. What evidence do you have that you're culturally responsive? How much further do you have to go toward truly accepting and adapting to a diverse environment? What programs are helping to move you and your team along? You can actually measure your progress and answer these questions. CultureALL will acquaint participants with the five mindsets found along the Intercultural Development Continuum. Having a deeper understanding of the IDC allows participants to interpret the IDI assessment data more accurately. Simultaneously, it shows them what is on the horizon and worth working toward. IDI results show us perceived orientations (PO) and developmental orientations (DO), which may land in different mindsets on the spectrum. The gap may be due to implicit associations that have been socialized into us without our knowledge or permission. We will discuss how to use this data to help people navigate a complex environment resulting from an increasingly multicultural society.

The Book Club Society • *Bennigan's Room*

Theresa Slaughter, Iowa 21CCLC

In this session, participants will look at one of many ways to plan and implement a book club for middle and high school kids that will promote positive youth engagement. Participants will come out of this session with a partially developed book club unit along with several activities. This session is open to all; however, content is geared toward grades 6-12.

How to Build Your Bench of Employees • *Heartland South*

Julie Fugenschuh, Project Iowa; Megan Bogdan, YouthPort

Hear about what employees are thinking, how they decide to find a career/job, how to attract and retain employees from a workforce training program, and hear about a successful story of one organization that has been creative and innovative in finding employees.

Practices and Procedures for Including Students with Disabilities • *Indiana Room*

Jenn Conner and Yana List, You for Youth

Everyone benefits when your program embraces all students, which you're closer to achieving when you include students with disabilities. In this session, the Department of Education's You for Youth (Y4Y) Technical Assistance Team will break down how to create a program environment that is inclusive for all learners. We'll talk about how the elements of your program - from the language you use to the space you occupy - can make your site a supportive environment for all students. We'll also provide you with concrete strategies and resources you can apply in your program.



The Iowa Afterschool Alliance is dedicated to developing strong statewide systems of support for high quality, affordable, and accessible before school, afterschool, and summer programs in Iowa.

We do this through:

Policy • Outreach • Practice Support

Check out our website at:

www.iowaafterschoolalliance.org

Follow us on Facebook at:

www.facebook.com/iowaafterschoolalliance

7:30 to 8:30 a.m. Working Breakfast

Vic Jaras is available for questions regarding the RFA and your 21CCLC grant

8:30 to 9:30 a.m. Lightning Sessions

New GPRA Measures for 21st Century Grantees: Offering Tools and Supports · *Salon A*

21CCLC Evaluation Committee

Kaitlin Schmidt, St. Mark Youth Enrichment; Billy Stone, Oakridge Neighborhood Services

Representatives from the 21st CCLC Evaluation Committee will share a live demonstration of a new template tool developed for the new GPRA measures, followed by a guided discussion on additional areas evaluation support is needed based on attendee input and participation.

Building Strong Programs through Community Partnerships · *Bennigan's Room*

Christine Irvine, Vernon Johnson, John Spinks, Billy Stone, and Stephen Williams

Oakridge Neighborhood Services

Oakridge Neighborhood's Youth Education and Engagement Program was designated a 21st Century Learning Center in 2015. At that time, the program worked with ten community partners. Today that roster has grown to nearly 60 community partners helping support afterschool and out-of-school programming focused on the academic, social, emotional and enrichment needs of 180 K-12 students. Learn how Oakridge Neighborhood's team tapped into and built community partnership opportunities to address the unique needs of its youth scholars.

Boosting Engagement in the 21st Century: Using Digital Communications to Support Your Program · *Heartland South*

Emilee Harris, Iowa Afterschool Alliance

This session will help attendees understand the world of digital communications and its importance in engaging youth, caregivers, and community partners in your work. This presentation will outline the basics of digital communication platforms, how to use digital communications effectively and will help to generate ideas to start or grow your program's communications efforts.

Afterschool Enrichment that Produces Strong Social and Academic Performance in K-12 ·

Indiana Room

Webster Kranto and Claire Kranto, Kranto Education Alliance

This presentation will take you through the startup of a small company, how they discovered the world of after school programs, and the journey to provide excellent service to underserved populations. Kranto Education Alliance went from being a tiny dance studio in 2016 to a robust and thriving education company that has employed over 50 individuals and provided programming to 7000+ students in the Des Moines Metro. KEA now offers over 35 different enrichment programs across STEM subjects, athletics, art & anthropology, culinary arts, fashion design, technology & gaming, dance, and so much more.

9:30 to 9:45 a.m. Break

Visit vendors; water and coffee available

9:45 to 10:45 a.m. Lightning Sessions

Sustainability: How State and Local Entities and Fundraising Efforts Can Be a Part of Your Plan

Salon A

Panel Presentation: Ryan Page, Iowa Department of Human Services; Lindsey Ritter, Child Care Resource & Referral; Nicole Mann, Scott County Decat; Nicole Schleif Sinn, Boys & Girls Clubs of Central Iowa

Every out-of-school time program needs a solid sustainability plan for what to do when your funding source is completed. This session will provide some insight into how you can partner with state and local entities such as the Iowa Department of Human Services, County Decategorization, and Child Care Resource & Referral. This session will also feature fundraising tips and insights from the Boys & Girls Clubs of Central Iowa.

Pick Vic's Brain! Q&A with Vic Jaras · *Bennigan's Room*

Vic Jaras, Iowa Department of Education

Are you a current grantee of the 21st Century Community Learning Centers (21CCLC) program? Are you an out-of-school time site thinking of applying for a 21CCLC grant? Do you have questions for Vic Jaras? This is your chance! Come speak with Jaras and get your questions answered.

Defining and Implementing Family Engagement at Your Out-of-School Time Site

Heartland South

21CCLC Family Engagement Committee

Shaney Ford, Committee Co-Chair, Davenport Community School District

This presentation will discuss the definition of family engagement and the tips and tricks to planning, implementing and hosting great family engagement activities, both in person and on the "go." We will cover the basics of planning, engaging partners, and how to get families to participate. The presentation will discuss not only the importance and implementation of large-scale activities but also how to implement family engagement on a daily level within your out-of-school time program.

Please take time to visit our vendors during breaks.



AFTER
SCHOOL
ARTS
PROGRAM



9:45 to 10:45 a.m. Lightning Sessions (continued)

Achievement Unlocked: WIOA Youth Career Readiness and Training Services · *Indiana Room*

Panel Presentation: WIOA Members

The session will feature a panel of WIOA Title I Youth Directors and program participants (youth). The Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act (WIOA) is a federal law that oversees multiple programs that serve Iowa's youth. The WIOA Youth program through Iowa Workforce Development (IWD) is designed to assist both in-school and out-of-school (students that have disengaged from school or have graduated and are unsure about their career path) youth with the support, services, and funds needed to complete education and obtain employment. There are nine WIOA Youth programs that serve all 99 counties and are eager to work with you to provide funding and support for your programs' youth participants.

Teachers, counselors, and mentors are students' greatest teammates when it comes to preparing for the next level in the game of life. However, when a student needs extra support to reach the next level, community resources are there to offer additional resources. Your local WIOA Youth Program offers individualized services to assist in helping students stay in school, work toward graduation, and explore their career interests and skills. WIOA partners are there to lend support and resources at no cost (time or money) to your out-of-school time program! Learn about the eligibility requirements and different services this program has to offer, and how the program collaborates with other agencies and educational institutions to best serve Iowa's youth. Join a panel of statewide WIOA Youth Program Coordinators and youth program participants to learn how you can take advantage of the services and programs offered in your district and connect with your local WIOA Youth Program coordinator to help "level up" your students.

10:45 to 11:00 a.m. Break

Visit vendors, water and coffee available

11:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m. Closing Plenary

Closing Comments and Door Prize Winners Announced · *Main Ballroom*

Dr. Dau Jok, Des Moines Public Schools

Cassie Gerst, Conference Emcee

Interested in learning more about the 21CCLC program? Visit this website:

www.iowa21cclc.com



Speaker Biographies

Jade Alsin-Earles (Jay), WIOA Title I Youth Participant with Connect 2 Careers at Children & Families of Iowa

Jay Alsin-Earles is an 18-year-old participant in the Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act (WIOA) Connect 2 Careers (C2C) program and has been for the past year. Through the assistance of the C2C program, she recently obtained her HiSet through DMACC. Alsin-Earles is currently in a paid work experience with the marketing director of Golden Heart Senior Care.

Megan Bogdan, YouthPort

Megan Bogdan is a Project Director at YouthPort. Bogdan has been with YouthPort for almost four years and plans all of their educational activities and oversees their interns and work-study positions.

Cathryn Carney, Iowa Agriculture Literacy Foundation

Cathryn Carney is the education program manager for the Iowa Agriculture Literacy Foundation. As a former science educator, she incorporated agriculture into the science curriculum. This interest expanded into her graduate work, where she studied students' ability to recognize agricultural issues within their community and to connect those issues to science phenomena.

Gail Castillo, 4-H Iowa State University Extension and Outreach

Gail Castillo has been a 4-H Youth Program Specialist for 24 years for Iowa State University Extension and Outreach. She provides learning opportunities in non-formal settings for youth and the adults who work with youth around the topics of positive youth development and many of the 4-H project areas.

Melissa Clarke-Wharff, Can Play

Born and raised in Des Moines, Melissa Clarke-Wharff graduated from Roosevelt High School and received her bachelor's degree from the University of Iowa. Prior to opening Can Play, she worked in the hospitality industry for 25 years. Clarke-Wharff lives in West Des Moines with her husband Mike, and their six kids, Joe, Matt, Jack, Mari, Nick and Ellie.

Jenn Conner, You 4 Youth

As the Lead Education Specialist for the US Department of Education's Youth for Youth (Y4Y) Team, Jenn Conner supports OST programs through the design and delivery of professional development. Conner's experience includes engaging Philadelphia Youth, both in OST settings, where she managed grant and state compliance records, and traditional schools, where she served as a teacher, Instructional Coach and Administrator. During her teaching tenure, Conner was the founding member of two schools – one an accelerated middle school for over-age adolescents: the other, an innovative school with project-based programming. Conner holds a M.Ed. in Secondary Education from Chestnut Hill College and a bachelor's degree in psychology from Temple University. She is a certified Pennsylvania Teacher.

Dylan DeClerck, Can Play

As a high school student at the age of 16, Dylan DeClerck spent the summer of 2012 creating a baseball league called Opportunity on Deck, to allow elementary aged girls and boys in low-socioeconomic areas to participate in a free sports experience. In the years since, he has helped develop a variety of sports-based youth development programs and grow the organization to serve thousands of at-risk youth without ever charging a single participant. In his time outside of work, DeClerck enjoys playing professional ultimate Frisbee for the Minnesota Wind Chill, providing advice to other non-profit founders and volunteering in the community. DeClerck is a strong believer in the importance of life-long learning and has received his MBA from the University of Iowa.

Josh Ehn, Oelwein Community School District

Josh Ehn has been the Superintendent of the Oelwein School District since July of 2017. Ehn completed his education at BCLUW School District in Conrad, where both of his parents served as teachers. He graduated from UNI with a teaching degree in History Education. Following graduation, Ehn was a program manager for Four Oaks before landing his first teaching job back at BCLUW. While there, he spent time coaching football, basketball, and track. Ehn continued his education at the University of Iowa, receiving his master's degree and specialist degree in education leadership. He started his educational leadership journey in Melcher-Dallas, Iowa before returning north to serve as the Oelwein High School Principal in 2015 and Superintendent of Oelwein School in 2017. Ehn has focused his career on providing all students with rich and authentic learning experiences that are rigorous and challenging. He has been a leader in deploying 1:1 computers across the state, Project Based Learning, and Standard Referenced Grading. A champion for early childhood education and after school programming, Ehn has overseen the growth and expansion of opportunities for kids in every community he has worked in. Ehn is married to his wife, Ashley. Together they have four kids; Jonathan (12), Melissa (8), William (7), and Margaret (4). They also cohabitate with two dogs. In his spare time, Ehn enjoys construction work and fixing up old houses.

Shaney Ford, 21CCLC Family Engagement Committee Co-Chair, Davenport Community School District

Shaney Ford is the Out-of-School Time Specialist for Davenport Community Schools. She has been working with 21CCLC for over 20 years. First serving as a full-time AmeriCorps member after graduating from college, Ford has moved through the ranks to now supervise Out-of-School Time and AmeriCorps for Davenport Community Schools.

Julie Fugenschuh, Project Iowa

Julie Fugenschuh is the Executive Director of Project Iowa. Fugenschuh has been with Project Iowa since its inception ten years ago and oversees the programming, budget and strategic plan for the future.

Cassie Gerst, Burlington Community School District

Cassie Gerst is the Supervisor of Grants and Community Outreach for the Burlington Community School District. She is in her seventh year as the Director of the after school PiECES program for BCSD and has over 16 years of experience in OST programming. Before relocating to Iowa in 2009, she spent ten years in Sacramento, with the latter part of those years as the Executive Director of a 501(c)3 mentoring agency for youth in the foster care system. Her undergraduate degree is in marketing from SUNY Fredonia, and she has a master's of positive youth development from Iowa State University.

Mrs. Gerst supervises many different outreach programs throughout BCSD, including support of the McKinney Vento homeless liaison, a Resilient Communities project, our youth mentoring program called Club M, PiECES 21CCLC programming, our Family Engagement Specialists, and supporting numerous grants at the District level. She is certified to train others and is passionate about the Search Institute's Developmental Assets and Developmental Relationships framework. She is also certified to train others in Experiential Facilitation through Training Wheels, Inc. which brings team building, team development and leadership development into programs through hands-on activities. Lastly, Mrs. Gerst has been a practitioner of Conscious Discipline for the past six years and is featured on a podcast with Dr. Becky Bailey on the impact of Conscious Discipline in the after school environment.

Gerst is excited to lead and train others in the aspects of positive youth development, helping adults build connections with youth, and activities that positively impact educators in their development, which will influence a youth's ability to thrive.

Crystal Hall, Iowa Afterschool Alliance

Crystal Hall is a Senior Program Manager with the Iowa Afterschool Alliance. She joined the team in 2019 but has over 20 years' experience working with youth, families, and community partners in both the education and non-profit/human service world. She works with afterschool sites to build capacity and uses her past experience managing afterschool programming to better serve kids, families, and providers across the state.

Emilee Harris, Iowa Afterschool Alliance

Emilee Harris has served the Iowa Afterschool Alliance since 2020, working on public policy, advocacy, and communications. Her passion lies in creating change through stories and campaigns informed and built by the communities we serve. Harris is currently working on attaining her Master of Arts in Communication from Drake University, allowing her to equip programs with the skills they need to grow and sustain programming through communications.

Christine Irvine, Oakridge Neighborhood Services

As Vice President of Communications, Christine Irvine works to build awareness, knowledge, and familiarity of and engagement with Oakridge Neighborhood and its rich heritage in serving the Des Moines community.

Vic Jaras, Iowa Department of Education

Vic Jaras is the Iowa Department of Education Consultant for the Nita M. Lowey 21st Century Community Learning Center title program. Jaras has worked for the Department since 2008 and took over the 21CCLC grant starting in 2011. In his past roles, Jaras has empowered students to do amazing things like discover new prime numbers, build servers, code websites or write articles for the local paper. He believes that, "some students just needed someone to believe in them, before they could reach their true potential." Currently, Jaras strives to support out-of-school time educators and staff to maximize the impact that 21CCLC programming can make in the lives of youth in Iowa.

Vernon Johnson, Oakridge Neighborhood Services

For over 50 years, Vernon Johnson has been an advocate for disadvantaged children and youth. He had a distinguished career with Children and Families of Iowa and Orchard Place, where he founded the PACE program for delinquent youth, which grew to serve over 2,000 children and young adults annually. He was recruited from retirement to join Oakridge Neighborhood and continues to use his expertise and passion to address the academic and developmental needs of youth.

Dr. Dau Jok, Des Moines Public Schools

Dr. Dau Jok is the Social and Emotional Learning (SEL) Coordinator for Des Moines Public Schools in Iowa. Dr. Jok leads the systemic implementation of SEL and adult SEL professional learning in DMPS, a district of 33,000 students and 60 buildings. A former Division I basketball captain, Dr. Jok is a 2021-2 SEL Fellow for the CASEL Fellows Academy, non-profit director, and company commander in the United States Army Reserve. His quest to create inclusive communities of human excellence by humanizing knowledge, leadership, and work is informed by his indigenous Dinka (South Sudan) roots.

Dr. Jok holds a B.A. in Philosophy from the University of Pennsylvania, an M.Sc. in Global Leadership from Goldsmiths, University of London, and a Ph.D. in Education from Drake University. His area of research is Indigenous Knowledge Systems—Indigenous Education and Leadership.

His foundation, the Dut Jok Youth Foundation, has served more than 2,100 youth in three countries and is currently active in South Sudan, his motherland. He was the collegiate winner of the prestigious Coach Wooden Citizenship Cup in 2014 as well as the 2014 All-State NABC (National Association of Basketball Coaches) for his work on-and-off the court. Dr. Jok is an Associate of the Harambe Entrepreneurial Alliance, an international alliance of the most education African entrepreneurs.

Stacey Kimberlin, CultureALL

Stacey Kimberlin is CultureALL's Director of Consulting. In addition to recruiting, training, and developing CultureALL Ambassadors, she engages Iowans in deep discovery about their own attitudes and assumptions. Through her work as a social studies educator in International Baccalaureate schools, she aimed to develop inquiring, knowledgeable, and caring young people who help to create a more peaceful world through intercultural understanding and respect. As a community educator in one of the fastest-growing cities in the country, she has influenced policy and initiatives as a longtime advisory council member to better her community. She is also active in her church and led the charge to make it an inclusive and LGBTQIA+ affirming space. Her personal mission is to foster harmony in the world through relationship and community building.

Claire Kranto, Kranto Education Alliance

Claire Kranto is an Iowa native and holds a bachelor's in apparel, merchandising & design from Iowa State University. She has gained extensive global experience, traveling to 25+ countries across five continents. She is bilingual in Spanish and English, serves as Vice President of Magnolia Park Neighborhood Association, and helps operate the couple's multiple businesses while raising three toddlers

Webster Kranto, Kranto Education Alliance

Webster Kranto was born in Monrovia, Liberia and lived through two civil wars before age five. He fled on a ship to Ghana, where he lived in a refugee camp for three years and came to the United States (Illinois) at age eight, where he wasted no time excelling far beyond his peers. He started college in Computer Science at Northern Illinois University and later transferred to Iowa State University to study safety engineering. Upon graduating, he worked at Des Moines Water Works for three years in various capacities covering safety, engineering, and technology. In 2018 he decided to leave his job and invest in his family and small businesses. Kranto has gone on to be appointed by the governor to serve as the Vice Chair of the Iowa Board of Corrections, appointed by the city council to The Des Moines Civil & Human Rights Commission, where he serves as Commissioner of the city's largest Ward. He is also President of Magnolia Park Neighborhood Association and an amazing father and small business owner.

Paul LaMunyon, Children & Families of Iowa

Paul LaMunyon is the WIOA Title I Youth Program Supervisor for the Connect 2 Careers Program, where he has worked for almost ten years. He has worked with youth of all ages with Children and Families of Iowa, The Boys and Girls Club, and through Des Moines Public Schools as an athletic coach for almost 20 years. In his current role, he runs programming in Polk and the seven surrounding counties that focuses on assisting youth with setting and meeting their career and vocational goals.

Yana List, You 4 Youth

Yana List, as an Education Specialist for the US Department of Education's Youth for Youth (Y4Y) Team, provides training and technical assistance to 21st CCLC programs. List's background is in science education; she spent four years teaching high school biology and chemistry, in addition to crafting a science curriculum and providing supplementary professional development in her role as a curriculum specialist. List previously worked in support of out-of-school time during the summer months. List earned a bachelor's degree in biology and education from Swarthmore College and a master's degree in curriculum development from Ball State University.

Nicole Mann, Scott County Decat

Nicole Mann serves as the Eastern Iowa Service Area Decategorization Director with Scott County Kids. Mann provides coordination, service and assistance to six Decategorization Governance Boards in a ten county service area. She works closely with providers and community members to help identify gaps in services to help create and/or support programming that is more preventative, family-centered, and community-based. Mann also provides coordination to local initiatives. Mann graduated from the University of Nebraska – Omaha with her Bachelor of Science degree in Criminal Justice in 2005, from St. Ambrose University in 2009 with her Master of Social Work degree, and from St. Ambrose University in 2020 with her Master of Business Administration. She also has experience working in juvenile justice programming, therapy, domestic violence, and grant writing.

Earl McAlexander, 4-H Iowa State University Extension and Outreach

Earl McAlexander has been a 4-H Youth Specialist for nearly 35 years for Iowa State University Extension and Outreach. During this time, he has taught positive youth development to youth and adults that work with youth. McAlexander likes to do activities that are fun and also have a lesson that can be used later.

Jennie Null, Meraki Institute of Learning at Tanager Place

Jennie Null serves as the Learning and Development Manager within the Meraki Institute of Learning at Tanager Place in Cedar Rapids, IA. Null is a licensed Marriage and Family Therapist and Registered Play Therapy Supervisor. She has advanced trainings in Family Therapy, Play Therapy, Sand Tray Therapy, Eye Movement Desensitization and reprocessing, Clinical Supervision, Restorative Practices, and Leadership. Null has presented internationally on topics related to leadership, staff development, trauma-informed care, resilience, and well-being. Null has also designed and facilitated professional development courses for school districts, non-profits, and youth and family service providers focused on the RISE: Wellness & Resilience Framework, trauma-informed care, youth mental health considerations, family & parent engagement, compassion resiliency, and various leadership topics. She finds passion in assisting others on their journey, whether it be in a therapeutic relationship, clinical supervision and growth, facilitating highly reflective trainings, or mentoring.

Jamie Orozco Nagel, Volunteer Iowa

Jamie Orozco Nagel has worked with Volunteer Iowa for twelve years, helping to develop and support AmeriCorps programs and members throughout the state. She is a social worker by training and lives in Des Moines with her family.

Ryan Page, Iowa Department of Human Services

Ryan Page is the Child Care Regulatory Program Manager and Team Lead of the Child Care Bureau with the Department of Human Services. One of her main duties is to assess and implement Federal and State policy requirements for licensed child care providers throughout the state.

Lindsey Ritter, Child Care Resource & Referral

Lindsey Ritter is a Child Care Consultant with Child Care Resource & Referral. After attending college in the Des Moines area and spending time in out-of-school time programs, she realized how important it was for OST programming to reinforce what children had been learning in school by giving children opportunities to practice what they learned through play. Ritter decided to use her degree towards creating quality school year and summer programming and has been engaged with the world of out-of-school time since.

Kendra Schaapveld, Equus Workforce Solutions

Kendra Schaapveld is the Project Director for WIOA with Equus Workforce Solutions in the Mississippi Valley workforce area. Schaapveld has served as Project Director for over a year. Schaapveld has worked with youth and families for 15 years in behavior health, child welfare, family support and TANF services.

Nicole Schleif Sinn, Boys & Girls Clubs of Central Iowa

Nicole Schleif Sinn (she/her/hers) is Chief Development Officer for Boys & Girls Clubs of Central Iowa, responsible for all revenue streams supporting the organization's eight Club sites and \$4M budget. Schleif Sinn has worked in non-profit fundraising for the past seven years and received her Certified Fundraising Executive certification in 2020.

Kaitlin Schmidt, 21CCLC Evaluation Committee Chair, St. Mark Youth Enrichment

Kaitlin Schmidt is the Director of Strategic Resources at St. Mark Youth Enrichment. For six years, she has coordinated evaluation and data management efforts for St. Mark, including oversight of 21st Century Community Learning Centers reporting requirements.

Theresa Slaughter, Iowa 21CCLC

Theresa Slaughter is a Literacy Enrichment Coach serving 21st Century Community Learning Centers across Iowa. She is enthusiastic about working and supporting out-of-school time staff by providing professional growth in the area of Literacy Enrichment. Slaughter has over 20 years working in various learning environments ranging from the juvenile justice system to classroom teacher and everything in between.

Emily Smith, Goodwill Industries of Northeast Iowa

Emily Smith is the Director of WIOA Title I through Goodwill Industries of Northeast Iowa. Smith has served as Director since March of this year. Goodwill is a new WIOA provider in the NE Iowa local area. Prior to directing WIOA services, she worked in the field of residential care (ID/BI Waiver) and mental health for over twenty years.

John Spinks Jr., Oakridge Neighborhood Services

John Spinks Jr. manages Oakridge Neighborhood's 21st Century Community Learning Center. The Center provides a much-needed source of support to youth in the community through a continuum of afterschool and out-of-school programming. Spinks joined Oakridge Neighborhood in 2012 as a community/Des Moines Public Schools liaison. He previously served at Children & Families of Iowa and Orchard Place/PACE.

Bri Steirer, One-Stop Operator - Central, North Central, Northwest, and Northeast LWDAs

Bri Steirer is a Senior Program Manager with SPPG + Essman Research in West Des Moines. In this role, Steirer serves as the One-Stop Operator for Central, North Central, Northwest, and Northeast Iowa Local Workforce Development areas, where she works to help coordinate service delivery among local WIOA program providers. She has been in her current position for four years.

Billy Stone, Oakridge Neighborhood Services

Billy Stone is the OASIS Youth Education Director at Oakridge Neighborhood Services. Stone has a M.S.E. in Curriculum and Education at Drake University and received her B.S. in Education at the University of Dubuque. She is a former teacher and held the positions of middle school principal and high school vice principal with the Des Moines Public Schools system.

Stephen Williams, Oakridge Neighborhood Services

Stephen Williams is a Site Coordinator with Oakridge Neighborhood, serving as site coordinator for grades 3-5 at Edmunds Elementary School. Williams coordinates with community partners to bring quality programming to Oakridge Neighborhood's 21CCLC program.



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