North Carolina Center for Afterschool Programs

The Synergy Conference 2022 is hosted and sponsored by a number of collaborative partnerships.
It is with an abundance of joy that I welcome our state’s out-of-school time professionals, advocates, educators, and partners to the 18th annual Synergy Conference! As North Carolina’s only annual event tailored to all afterschool, before school, summer, and out-of-school time professionals and advocates from across the state, the Synergy Conference serves as a platform wherein you can connect with colleagues statewide, exchange ideas, discover novel opportunities, and add new resources and skills to your toolkit. If this is your first Synergy Conference, welcome home! You have found your kindred connections. We see you! We respect you! We support you! We value you! We welcome you!

With this year’s Hybrid Conference, the next three days are filled with an array of opportunities for professional development and engagement, whether you are attending in-person or virtually. In both settings, you have access to plenaries and workshops on a range of topics including advocacy, literacy, social & emotional learning, STEM, the American Rescue Plan and so much more. Additionally, you will be able to engage with this year’s amazing statewide and national vendors and connect with colleagues through various networking opportunities.

The theme of this year’s conference is “Forward”. This theme defines the moment that we are in as an out-of-school time field. As we reflect on the last two years and the complexity of our current context, it reminds us of the direction in which we are all moving as a field. The journey forward may be mostly uphill, but we will and we must move forward! Forward with Compassion. Forward with Courage. Forward with Hope. Forward with Innovation. Forward with Resilience. Most importantly, we must move Forward Together; together with youth, with families, with schools, and with communities. After all, we all have one unifying goal and that is to ensure that all North Carolina youth and families thrive!

It is my sincerest hope that you can leverage the resources and information gained through the conference to engage your youth program participants, families, and communities, as we move forward together as a unified front through the recovery process. The imagery for this year’s conference illustrates the idea that the journey Forward is like participating in a race. As Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. reminds us, “If you can’t fly, then run. If you can’t run, then walk. If you can’t walk, then crawl. But whatever you do, you have to keep moving forward.” You must never stop moving Forward!

If you are on social media, be sure to tweet or post using the hashtag #Synergy2022 so that we can share in this year’s hybrid conference experience together. #Forward

Most sincerely,

Sheronda Witter Fleming, Ph.D.
NC Center for Afterschool Programs
Since 1986, the Public School Forum of North Carolina has been an indispensable and nonpartisan champion of better schools and the most trusted source in the state for research and analysis on vital education issues. The Public School Forum of North Carolina brings together leaders from business, education and government to study education issues, develop ideas, seek consensus and ultimately inform and shape education policy through research, policy work, innovative programs, advocacy and continuing education for educators and policymakers. Follow the Public School Forum of North Carolina on Twitter @theNCForum and visit www.ncforum.org for more information.

The North Carolina Center for Afterschool Programs (NC CAP) is a statewide after-school and expanded learning network dedicated to increasing access to high quality after-school and expanded learning programs for all children and youth in North Carolina, helping them to succeed in and out of school. Our work includes research and best practices in the afterschool and expanded learning environment; convening key stakeholders (national, state, and local); advocating for policies to support afterschool and expanded learning; and professional development and technical support for afterschool programs. Follow us on Twitter @NCafterschool or on Facebook @ncafterschool and visit our website at www.ncafterschool.org

Making Connections

This is Afterschool
Helping kids recover
NC Center for Afterschool Programs Team

DIRECTOR: Dr. Sheronda Fleming

Dr. Sheronda Witter Fleming is the Director of the North Carolina Center for Afterschool Programs, NC CAP. As a college student, Sheronda founded the Ladies of Distinction mentoring program for middle school girls, which ignited a passion within her regarding the necessity for access to out-of-school time learning opportunities for all youth. Following that trajectory, Sheronda has spent the last 14 years serving youth in South and North Carolina through an array of roles in out-of-school time programs and youth serving organizations. Since 2017, Sheronda has been at the helm of NC CAP, working to support afterschool professionals and advocate for out-of-school time opportunities for youth statewide. Through her role, she has learned that how a child spends their time before school, after school and during the summer has an impact on their outcomes in school and in life. A proud graduate of Furman University, Sheronda also holds a Master’s Degree in Youth Development Leadership from Clemson University and a Doctorate of Philosophy in K-12 Education Research and Policy Analysis at North Carolina State University.

PROGRAM MANAGER: Sheneika Simmons

As the Program Manager for North Carolina Center for Afterschool Programs (NC CAP), Sheneika works with the NC CAP Director to develop, lead, coordinate, and drive the NC Network’s initiatives. She supports the design and delivery of various professional development opportunities, advocacy, and the shaping policy that assists in the advancement of out-of-school time learning. Prior to joining NC CAP, Sheneika earned a Bachelor’s of Science degree in Psychology from Ferrum College and a Masters of Science in Educational Studies from Johns Hopkins University. Currently, she is working towards her Ph.D. in Human Services with an emphasis in Community Intervention and Intervention from Walden University. Sheneika is a Teach For America, Eastern North Carolina Corps Member Alumni (2015), and a StartingBloc Raleigh-Durham (2018) Fellow. Since joining Teach For America, Sheneika remained in the classroom until joining NC CAP. She has been able to work with youth, communities, and programs in various capacities. Sheneika is passionate about the future of youth in North Carolina and supporting them. As a former educator, she still continues to focus on fostering positive relationships for youth and promoting strategic programming that enhances the whole child.
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Time</th>
<th>Event</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>8:45 am</td>
<td>Registration</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>9:00 am</td>
<td>Welcome &amp; 21st CCLC Staff Introduction</td>
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<tr>
<td>9:10 am</td>
<td>2021-2022 Competition Updates</td>
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<tr>
<td>9:30 am</td>
<td>Caregiver and Family Engagement Best Practices</td>
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<tr>
<td>10:00 am</td>
<td>Restorative Practices: The Restorative Practices Continuum</td>
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<tr>
<td>10:45 am</td>
<td>Stretch Break</td>
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<tr>
<td>11:00 am</td>
<td>Write Brain Summer 2022 Pilot Program: “Creativity &amp; Connection: Project-Based Literacy to Engage Every Type of Learner!”</td>
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<tr>
<td>12:00 pm</td>
<td>Lunch On Your Own</td>
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<tr>
<td>1:00 pm</td>
<td>Group Team Builder/Ice Breaker</td>
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<tr>
<td>1:15 pm</td>
<td>21st CCLC Program Evaluation Activities and Statewide Results</td>
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<tr>
<td>2:30 pm</td>
<td>21st CCLC 2022 Peer Recognition Award Ceremony</td>
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<tr>
<td>3:30 pm</td>
<td>Closing Remarks</td>
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**Note:** Wednesday, April 20th is the 21st Century Community Learning Center Statewide Technical Assistance Meeting for current grantees.
SYNERGY 2022  |  FORWARD

In-Person
Synergy Conference Logistics

NAMETAGS
Please wear your nametag and lanyard each day. This is your entrance ticket for plenaries, meals and workshops. Please visit the registration desk if you lose your nametag.

MEALS
We do our best in choosing a universal selection that will please the majority of conference participants. Vegetarian, vegan and gluten free options will be available for each meal.

EXHIBIT HALL
A range of vendors are available on the third floor of the convention center during set exhibit hall hours. In-person Exhibit Hall hours are as follows:

Thursday, April 21st  3:00 pm – 4:30 pm
Friday, April 22nd  10:00 am – 10:30 am

Additionally, each vendor will have a page on the virtual conference platform.

CONFERENCE SOCIAL MEDIA
Follow the NC Center for Afterschool Programs via Twitter at @ncafterschool and via Facebook at facebook.com/ncafterschool. Use the hashtag #Synergy2022 on Twitter to show us what you are learning and how you are making the most of this virtual conference experience at home. Check out the Synergy on Twitter tab in the virtual platform to see if your twitter post has been spotlighted.

LOST & FOUND
Please visit the Registration Desk to turn in found items or to retrieve lost items.

WORKSHOP CHANGES
In the case of circumstances beyond our control, there may be a time where a workshop is cancelled. Changes will be posted at the location where the workshop was to be held. We apologize in advance for any inconvenience.

WORKSHOP & CONFERENCE EVALUATION FORMS
After attending workshops, we invite you to complete the corresponding workshop block evaluation by scanning the appropriate QR code. Your comments help us provide quality workshop sessions at future conferences. We also invite you to complete the overall conference evaluation, using the appropriate QR code, by the end of the closing plenary on Friday. You will be emailed a certificate of attendance for this year’s conference after completing the conference evaluation.

PHOTO RELEASE
NC CAP will use photographs of conference participants in future promotional materials. By virtue of your attendance at the conference, NC CAP reserves the right to use your likeness in such materials.

ADDITIONAL RESOURCES AND HANDOUTS
NC CAP will post materials from this year’s conference on the virtual conference platform, in the Virtual Tote Bag, pending submission from presenters.

CELL PHONES
Please be respectful by keeping your cell phone silent during workshop sessions and conference plenaries.

DISCLAIMER
The contents of live plenaries and workshop sessions reflect the views of the presenters who are responsible for the facts and accuracy of the information presented therein and do not necessarily reflect the views of the NC Center for Afterschool Programs, the Public School Forum of North Carolina or the NC Department of Public Instruction.

QUESTIONS & CONCERNS
Need information or assistance? Support will be available at the conference registration table throughout the conference. Or, ask your workshop room host for assistance.

COMFORT DURING CONFERENCE
We recommend layering your clothing. Temperatures can vary from room to room within the Koury Convention Center.

WORKSHOP SESSIONS & SEATING
Workshop sessions are available on a first come, first-served basis and some sessions will fill quickly. You may want to consider having a first and second option selected just in case. We will post a sign if a session is full. Please respect these signs so we meet fire code regulations and ensure we all stay safe and comfortable. Also, please try not to enter and exit sessions after they have begun to minimize disruptions. Thanks for your support in making sessions productive for you and your colleagues.
Virtual Conference Logistics

DEVICE REQUIREMENTS
We recommend laptop or desktop computers for the best conference experience.

WEB BROWSERS
For maximum performance, security, and stability during the conference, download the latest version of your preferred Web browser. If asked by the system, allow pop-up windows to display.

We recommend the following browsers:
- Chrome (PC and Mac)
- Mozilla Firefox (PC and Mac)
- Apple Safari (Mac)

INTERNET CONNECTION
We recommend using a wired broadband connection – wireless, mobile, satellite, and dial-up connections are not always as fast or stable. On rare occasions, disruptions to your internet connection can result in sessions freezing or closing abruptly. If this occurs, simply rejoin the session.

CONFERENCE SOCIAL MEDIA
Follow the NC Center for Afterschool Programs via Twitter at @ncafterschool and via Facebook at facebook.com/ncafterschool. Use the hashtag #Synergy2022 on Twitter to show us what you are learning, selfies with your families and coworkers and how you are enjoying your virtual conference experience. Check out the Synergy on Twitter tab in the virtual platform to see if your twitter post has been spotlighted. Don’t forget to participate in the virtual conference contests for door prizes.

WORKSHOP & CONFERENCE EVALUATION FORMS
After viewing each pre-recorded workshop video, please complete the evaluation form for that workshop. Your comments help us provide quality sessions at future conferences. An overall conference evaluation will be available to conference attendees on Friday, April 22nd. Please complete the conference evaluation for a chance to win prizes, including an Amazon or Target Gift. After the conference, you will be able to download your conference attendance certificate to share with your employer.

ADDITIONAL RESOURCES AND HANDOUTS
Resources from the conference will be posted in the Virtual Tote Bag of the conference platform. Feel free to download any of the resources and workshop handouts as a reference after the conference.

DISCLAIMER
The contents of plenaries and workshop sessions reflect the views of the presenters who are responsible for the facts and accuracy of the information presented therein and do not necessarily reflect the views of the NC Center for Afterschool Programs, the Public School Forum of North Carolina or the NC Department of Public Instruction.

TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE
Need technical assistance? Technical support will be available throughout the conference week. For technical assistance, please contact the Help Desk, support@icohere.com and include a detailed description of the issue. Support will be available Monday through Friday, from 8 am to 4pm Pacific.
Synergy Conference 2022 Workshop Strands

Arts & Literacy
Workshops on creating opportunities for self-expression through the arts in a creative and constructive manner; leveraging the creative, academic and developmental benefits of arts education; supporting grade-level reading in expanded learning programs, infusing literacy into all areas of programs; and literacy-specific activities to support English-language learners.

Closing Gaps
Workshops on effective practices associated with improving academic performance, school attendance, and decreasing misconduct and limiting behaviors among minority youth and students with a low-socioeconomic status in afterschool and extended learning programs.

College and Career Readiness
Workshops on affording youth with early exposure to college standards and employability skills; identifying connections between current interests and future aspirations for youth; leveraging partnerships with local colleges, universities, businesses and military branches for college and career exposure; and involving families in post-secondary planning.

Organizational Capacity
Workshops on fundraising, grant writing and stewardship of donors and funds; social media outreach; recruitment, retention, supervision, evaluation, development and coaching of staff and volunteers; afterschool advocacy through engagement of elected officials and policymakers; and leveraging parent and family engagement.

Public & Private Partnerships
Workshops on developing and sustaining school-community partnerships; cultivating cross-sector collaboration with the health, education, and juvenile justice sectors; recruiting local businesses and corporate partners; rural and urban program models; engaging the faith-based community; higher education organizations or clubs; and working with local foundations and organizations.

Social & Emotional Learning
Workshops on social and emotional learning in out-of-school and in-school settings; the science of social and emotional learning; whole child, whole setting approaches to social and emotional learning; core principles and strategies for integrating SEL into everyday practices and routines; adult role in building youth SEL skills; and aligning SEL across settings.

Science, Technology, Engineering & Math
Workshops on aligning with the school day and incorporating standards into program activities; engaging youth in real world application of STEM concepts and processes; successful local, state, and national models; strategies for implementing inquiry-based learning and project-based learning; and leveraging partnerships to expand content.

Youth Development
Workshops on healthy out-of-school time programming; nurturing youth social, emotional and cognitive development; implementing inclusive programs that welcome all youth; civic engagement; trauma-informed practices for working with youth and adults; and equipping youth with tools for advocacy and social change.
This meeting is for all current 21st Century Community Learning Center sub-grantees. All essential staff representing each program are encouraged to attend.

**PRESENTER: Katrina Blount, NC Department of Public Instruction**

Katrina Blount joined DPI’s Federal Program Monitoring and Support team as a Fiscal Monitor with the 21st CCLC team in 2017. Prior to her current role, she served as a Budget Officer with DHHS in the Division of Mental Health, Developmental Disabilities and Substance Abuse Services monitoring federal block grants and state funds. She previously worked with the UNC System as a Compliance Specialist monitoring various federal and state funds in Higher Education at colleges and universities throughout North Carolina.

Prior to her time in North Carolina, Katrina worked in Virginia as a Compliance Specialist and School Liaison with the state’s student loan agency. In addition, she worked as a Debt Management Coordinator at a private university assisting students with managing their student loan debt and credit counseling. Katrina holds a bachelor’s degree in Business Management and Marketing from Hampton University and a master’s degree in Public Administration from North Carolina Central University.

Katrina is originally from Richmond, VA but has called Raleigh home since 1999.

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**PRESENTER: Susan Brigman, NC Department of Public Instruction**

Susan Brigman is currently the Section Chief for Specialty Programs for the Federal Program Monitoring and Support (FPMS) Division at the North Carolina Department of Public Instruction (DPI). Prior to assuming this role, Susan has served in various capacities within the FPMS Division including Interim Assistant Director, Section Chief for 21st Century Community Learning Centers; Section Chief for the East; Consolidated Program Administrator for the Sandhills Region; and School Improvement Grant (SIG) Coordinator for the East.

Susan has over 20 years of experience in the field of education. She began her career as an Administrative Assistant in the Public Relations Office at the Richmond County Schools Central Office. While in college, she served as a Home-School Liaison for Pre-School Children with Disabilities. After graduating from college, Susan served as a classroom teacher at Sycamore Lane Middle School in Scotland County for 2 years before moving into the position of Child Care Resource and Referral Director for Richmond County Partnership for Children. In 2004, Susan returned to the classroom where she taught Language Arts, Math and Science for 6th, 7th, 8th, and 9th grade students at Leak Street Alternative School for the next three years. While teaching at the alternative school she also completed her Administrative Internship. Susan served as the Assistant Principal of Richmond Senior High School for 1 year before becoming the Principal at Richmond Transitional School from 2008-2013 and Principal at Ashley Chapel Educational Center from 2013-2017. During her tenure at Ashley Chapel Educational Center, she was a Turnaround Principal in the SIG III cohort.

Susan holds a Masters in School Administration and Curriculum and Instruction from the University of North Carolina at Pembroke, a Bachelor of Science Degree in Middle Grades Education from the University of North Carolina at Pembroke, and an Associate of Arts Degree from Richmond Community College.
PRESENTER: Wendy Buck, NC Department of Public Instruction

Wendy Buck is currently a Program Administrator for 21st CCLC for the Federal Programs Monitoring and Support (FPMS) Division. Prior to assuming this role Wendy has most recently served in Beaufort County as the Director of Workforce, Innovation, and STEM which included Career and Technical Education (CTE) Director, writing and directing grants, and many other responsibilities. Wendy has over 25 years of experience in field of education and taught middle school in Warren County, Pitt County, and Beaufort County. She moved from the classroom in 2003 to become the Director for 21st CCLC Programs in Beaufort County Cohort 1. In 2009 she went to Jones County Schools as the Education Program Services Director where she oversaw PK-12 curriculum, CTE, federal programs, and school improvement. In 2012 Wendy became an Instructional Coordinator in the Office of Licensure and Clinical Experience in the College of Education at East Carolina University. In 2014 Wendy returned to her home district of Beaufort County where she spent the last 6.5 years serving her home community as a Director. Wendy holds a Masters in School Administration and Curriculum and Instruction from East Carolina University, a Masters in Education Administration from Pensacola Christian College, and a Bachelors in History with a minor in Social Studies from East Carolina University. She also had the privilege of being in the first class of NC Teaching Fellows. Wendy is married to Wayne Petteway and together they have a son, Robert, and many fur babies.

PRESENTER: Dr. Darren Hamilton, NC Department of Public Instruction

Dr. Darren J. Hamilton has provided service leadership as a 21st Century Community Learning Centers Program Administrator since June 2021. Dr. Hamilton supports the West, Northwest, and Southwestern Regions of North Carolina. He spearheads the Professional Development Team and serves as a member for the Field Trip Team. In addition, he brings tremendous energy and enthusiasm with a “can do and will do” attitude for the 21st CCLC Team at DPI. Prior to Dr. Hamilton’s role as 21st CCLC Program Administrator, he worked as Curriculum Specialist and Program Director for 21st Century Community Learning Center (CCLC) afterschool programs at Charlotte-Mecklenburg Schools. During that time, he has written, obtained, and managed grants of $21 million over a ten-year span. Beyond this, Dr. Hamilton has extensive experience in the educational field having worked as an Assistant Professor, Athletics Director, Journal Editor for the Pennsylvania Black Conference on Higher Education, Education Policy Advisor for the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania’s Governor, and Consultant for AME Zion University (Monrovia, Liberia). Through his experiences, Dr. Hamilton continually works towards providing educational and enrichment activities for all students to grow and develop all over the world. Throughout the course of his career, Darren has worked to develop expertise in grant writing, curriculum development, project-based learning, and S.T.E.M. In 2018, Dr. Hamilton facilitated a S.T.E.M. workshop at the Synergy Conference. Most recently, Dr. Darren J. Hamilton was named a 2021 Lifetime Afterschool Champion by the North Carolina Center for Afterschool Programs. He continues to develop exciting cutting-edge programs, enrichment activities, and curriculum for all students to close achievement gaps. Dr. Hamilton earned the Bachelor of Arts, Master of Science, Doctor of Philosophy from The Pennsylvania State University.
PRESENTER: Anita Harris, NC Department of Public Instruction

Anita Harris has been working with and in the Federal Programs Monitoring & Support group since 2007, on a number of IT and data collection projects, most notably CCIP, 21DC and 21APR. Anita has a BS in Electrical Engineering (focus on Biomedical Engineering) with a minor in English, and an MBA (focus on technical marketing) and experience in logistics, warehousing, manufacturing and engineering processes in the private sector, as well as providing training on a variety of applications, either homegrown or vendor-produced. Anita hails from The Bronx, but has lived in New Jersey, Massachusetts and New Hampshire; she has lived in North Carolina since 1991.

PRESENTER: Dr. Bryan Hutchins, SERVE Center at UNC Greensboro

Bryan Hutchins, Ph.D., is a Senior Research Specialist at the SERVE Center at the University of North Carolina at Greensboro. His research interests include high school reform efforts, career and technical education (CTE), and the transition to adulthood. He has worked on multiple state- and federally-funded evaluations for programs including North Carolina’s Career and College Promise, Race to the Top, Read to Achieve, UNCG’s ProjectEnACTeD (Engaging and Advancing Community-Centered Teacher Development), North Carolina’s 21st Century Community Learning Center, as well as, multiple federally funded investigations of efforts to implement early college high school strategies in comprehensive high schools.

PRESENTER: Hawhana Locklear, NC Department of Public Instruction

Hawhana Locklear joined the Department of Public Instruction (DPI) in November, 2021 in Federal Programs as a program administrator of the Sandhills and part of the North Central region. She comes to DPI with 24 years of experience in the North Carolina public school system, the Department of Defense Education Activity and Higher Education. Throughout her career, she has served in numerous positions. Those include teacher assistant, teacher, media specialist, Director of Indian Education, Director of Online Learning, and principal. Throughout her career she has specialized in technology and equipping teachers with best practices in teaching and learning and integration. Throughout her years of service, she has served as a teacher in the 21st CCLC program and principal at site locations.

She holds a bachelor’s from UNC-Pembroke, Master’s in Teaching from Lee University, Master’s in Media and Library Science from North Carolina Central and a Master’s in School Administration from UNC-Pembroke.

Her strengths are in school improvement planning and effective professional learning teams.

She is married and co-parents four children. She is the grandmother of four and her greatest passion outside of her career, is spending time with her family and friends.
PRESENTER: Meredith Scott Lynn, WRITE BRAiN WORLD

Meredith Scott Lynn, film and television actress (you may recognize her from Legally Blonde, A Night at the Roxbury, and Days of Our Lives, as well as many television shows) turned after school advocate, understands the value of stories and self-expression. As Founder & CEO of WRiTE BRAiN WORLD, her mission is to foster self-esteem and elevated expression in anyone of any age by offering innovative, fun, and engaging programs that help students discover and develop their original ideas. Seeking to create collaborative and compassionate contributors by offering experiences that elevate academic and personal confidence, it is Meredith’s goal to shift the conversation around student assessment from one rooted solely in standardized testing to one grounded in appreciation for “the whole student.”

PRESENTER: Kathleen Mooney, SERVE Center at UNC Greensboro

Kathleen Mooney has experience as a program evaluator with SERVE Center at the University of North Carolina at Greensboro for over a decade, focusing on the use of data to improve educational outcomes and ensure continuous improvement. She has worked on multiple state- and federallyfunded evaluations for programs including the Regional Educational Laboratory, Race to the Top, and School Improvement Grants. In addition, since 2015 she has been a member of SERVE Center’s evaluation team providing support for NCDPI’s North Carolina’s Afterschool Quality Improvement Grant (ASQIG), Extended Learning and Integrated Student Supports Program (ELISS), and 21st Century Community Learning Center Program.

PRESENTER: Ashton Moss, NC Department of Public Instruction

Ashton Moss joined the Federal Program Monitoring and Support (FPMS) Division at NCDPI as Fiscal Analyst for 21st CCLC March 2021. She graduated from North Carolina State University with a BS in Accounting in 2017 and has since worked in data analytics and evaluation. She obtained her Business Analytics Certificate from UNC Greensboro in 2020 and is studying to graduate with a Master’s in Business Administration Spring 2023 from UNC Greensboro. While in Raleigh for her undergraduate degree, Ashton worked in the accounting department of a non-profit organization. After moving to Greensboro, she served as data coordinator at UNC Greensboro, conducting research on first destination career development of UNCG graduates. Ashton has a passion for using analytical skills to help solve problems, make decisions, and meet objectives. Her hope is that the detailed work in fiscal monitoring will help improve educational outcomes and ensure continuous improvement of student achievements. Ashton is a North Carolina native and resides in Greensboro, NC with her husband and dog, Josie.
**PRESENTER: Monica Pask, NC Department of Public Instruction**

Monica Pask joined the NC Department of Public Instruction in 2021 and currently serves as a Fiscal Analyst in the Federal Programs Monitoring and Support Division. She has over twenty years in the accounting industry with a focus on data integrity and standards compliance, most recently with UNC Greensboro. She has a passion for problem solving, total process improvement, and utilizing data to support decision making. She also has experience working as a middle school math teacher and is excited to again be working to improve the opportunities and outcomes for children in North Carolina. Monica has a BS in Business Administration from SUNY Brockport and is currently pursuing her MBA at UNC Greensboro.

**PRESENTER: Tara Powe, NC Department of Public Instruction**

Tara Powe joined the NC Department of Public Instruction in the Federal Programs Monitoring and Support Division in 2018 and currently serves as a Fiscal Program Administrator. She is responsible for working with 21st Century Community Learning Centers in the eastern part of the state who are awarded with federal funds through ESSA-Title IV, Part B. She truly believes in and supports Out-of-School (OST) programs and the impact they make in the lives of students and families across the nation. Tara has committed over 20 years of her career to working with students and families in OST programs through local schools, faith-based, community-based and higher education entities. She also provides support and training in fiscal management, strategic planning, program development and risk management to youth programs throughout the state. She holds a Master of Public Administration from Central Michigan University, a Bachelor of Science Degree in Family and Community Services from East Carolina University, and an Associate of Science Degree in Accounting from Wayne Community College. Tara resides in Pitt County, NC with her husband, Shawn and son, Judah. She enjoys spending time with family and friends, traveling, and serving at her church.

**PRESENTER: Megan Orleans, NC Department of Public Instruction**

Megan Orleans is currently the Special Projects Program Administrator for DPI 21st CCLC Programs and the statewide ELISS Program lead for North Carolina. Prior to working for DPI, Megan served as the Director of Out of School Time Programs at Youth and Opportunity United, a non-profit in the near-north Chicago suburbs. In this role, Megan oversaw (10) elementary and middle school 21st Century Community Learning Centers across several school districts.

Megan has over 12 years of experience in the field of education. She began her career as a Program Coordinator at a non-profit in Los Angeles working to connect student learning to outdoor garden spaces located on LAUSD school campuses. Through this experience, Megan discovered her passion for cultivating student-centered learning environments that exist beyond the traditional classroom and went on to work at a variety of children’s museums, botanic gardens, and nature centers across the country. Over the course of her career, Megan has worked to develop expertise in project-based learning that centers community-identified problems and dialogue-based facilitation methods. Most recently, Megan has begun to explore anti-bias education practices and is focused on further developing her approach to anti-racist social emotional learning in both formal and informal learning environments.

Megan holds a Master of Education in Environmental Education from Slippery Rock University, and a Bachelor of Arts Degree in Geography/Environmental Studies from the University of California-Los Angeles. She lives in the Piedmont Triad Area with her family and loves to be outside in the Blue Ridge Mountains.
PRESENTER: Margaret Quick-Primus, NC Department of Public Instruction

Margaret Quick-Primus is currently the Program Administrator for DPI (Department of Public Instruction) 21st CCLC (Century Community Learning Centers) Programs. Margaret joined the department in November of 2021, she supports the Southwestern Regions of North Carolina. She is a native of Marlboro County, South Carolina. Prior to joining NCDPI (North Carolina Department of Public Instruction), she served as the Grant Writer/Special Projects Coordinator and District Administrator for Marlboro County School District. She has over 6 years of experience working with 21st CCLC programs starting as a Program Director and Grant Administrator. In addition to afterschool, she has additional experience including working as a Curriculum Coordinator, Title I Coordinator, Parenting and Family Literacy Coordinator, School Wellness Coordinator, Early Childhood Educator, Childcare Director, and many more for a total of 18 years in the state of South Carolina.

Margaret earned an undergraduate degree in Business Administration, Master’s Degree in Business Administration, a Master’s Degree in Early Childhood Education. Margaret is married to Reginald Primus and has 2 boys, Brycen, 12 years old and Reginald, 18 years old.

PRESENTER: Eric Rainey, NC Department of Public Instruction

Eric Rainey joined the SERVE center as a Program Administrator DPI in December 2020. Prior to joining SERVE he was the Graduation Coach at Southwest Guilford High School since 2007. In this role he helped Southwest reach the highs of a 96% graduation rate for the 2014-2015 school year, which led to recognition from the Piedmont Triad Education Consortium as being one of the top schools in the state. Eric also served as the school’s head varsity football coach from 2012-2018, earning Piedmont Triad 4A Conference Coach of the year in 2015-2016. Eric has over 25 years of experience in the field of education and childcare services, serving in varying roles, to include: graduation coach, classroom teacher, behavior intervention specialist, and recreation supervisor. Eric is the founder and owner of Restorative Well, an educational training & coaching company focusing on restorative practices. Eric holds a Master’s Degree in Instructional Technology from Walden University, Graduate Certificate in Restorative Practices from the International Institute for Restorative Practices and a Bachelor’s Degree in Physical Education (minor Mass Communication) from Towson University. He has been married to Jecobi Rainey for 24 years and together they have two sons, Jaren, 22 and Jaelan, 18.

PRESENTER: Beth Thrift, Serve Center at UNC Greensboro

Beth Thrift, program specialist with the SERVE Center at the University of North Carolina at Greensboro since 2001, provides technical assistance, professional development, and evaluation services to state and district education agencies as well as nonprofit organizations. Ms. Thrift has contributed to development and dissemination projects in a variety of areas, including afterschool programs, school improvement initiatives, at-risk student services, high school reform, and technology programs. She has extensive experience in the development and delivery of both face-to-face and online professional development. Ms. Thrift has managed grant review processes for multiple grant competitions across three programs for the North Carolina Department of Public Instruction Federal Program Monitoring and Support Division, as well as, for the Mississippi Department of Education. She has been a reviewer for statewide competitive grants in three states and has been a contributor to both state and federal grant proposals. Ms. Thrift has developed and provided both grant proposal writing and evaluation capacity building workshops for both education and nonprofit entities.
Gina White, a native of Greensboro, NC, is no stranger to the educational field! She is committed to student success not only in the classroom but outside of it. Ms. White has always had a passion for working with children and her list of experiences is impeccable! She has worked as Site Coordinator for the You Can Learn 21st Century Program in Anson County, taught Pre-K in Stokes County, taught Middle and High School ELA in Forsyth County, taught High School ELA for Richmond County Schools, where she received the Outstanding Leadership Certificate for the 2017-18 school year and has been Director for Id Tech Computer Camps located in Chicago, IL. for the past 6 years. She graduated high school from Lee Senior High, is a proud graduate of Winston Salem State University with a BA in English, received her master’s in Curriculum and Instruction from Concordia University, and a second master’s degree in Administration and Supervision from the University of Phoenix. She currently serves at the North Carolina Department of Instruction as Program Administrator for 21st Century Community for the Piedmont Region.

Dr. LaTricia Townsend currently serves as the Director of Federal Programs at the North Carolina Department of Instruction (NCDPI) where she leads a strong team of dedicated and hard-working professionals and manages a portfolio of her six billion dollars. She joined NC DPI from the Friday Institute for Educational Innovation at North Carolina State University in 2020, where she served as the Director of the Research and Evaluation Team. She has extensive experience in educational research, program evaluation, grant management, leadership development, and work focused on improving educational outcomes for students. Dr. Townsend has 26 years of experience in the field of education. Before coming to the Friday Institute in 2008, Dr. Townsend served as a Science Content Specialist with Technical Outreach to Public Schools (TOPS) at the Center for Urban Affairs and Community Services at North Carolina State University, where she aided in the development of statewide standardized science assessments. She also worked as a research chemist for the Dow Corning Corporation in Midland, Michigan for two years before becoming a science and math teacher. She taught Chemistry, as well as Algebra I and II for nearly ten years with both Saginaw City Schools and Wake County Public Schools. Dr. Townsend received a Bachelor of Science degree in Textile Chemistry with a concentration in Polymer Chemistry at North Carolina State University, followed by teacher licensure from Saginaw Valley State University. She then earned a Master of School Administration and a Doctorate in Educational Administration and Supervision from North Carolina State University.

PRESENTER: Gina White, NC Department of Public Instruction

PRESENTER: Dr. LaTricia Townsend, NC Department of Public Instruction
In-Person Plenaries
Thursday, April 21, 2022

8:30 am – 9:30 am
OPENING PLENARY
The opening plenary will kickstart this year’s Synergy Conference.
The plenary will feature remarks from stakeholders and the conference keynote.

REMARKS:
Alfred Mays
Burroughs Wellcome Fund
Alfred M. Mays currently serves as the Director and Chief Strategist for Diversity and Education at the Burroughs Wellcome Fund. Prior to Alfred assuming this role, he served as an independent consultant with a service delivery that included strategic planning, project incubation, design and implementation. Alfred has served as an enabler within a number of education programs and initiatives to include the Assistant Director of the Collaborative Project, a 21st Century Program supported by the North Carolina General Assembly. In this role, Alfred was primarily responsible for the development and management of information resources, which supported the project’s design through program participation tracking, reporting, and evaluation of impact. Alfred also served as staff advisor (Project Manager) to North Carolina’s eLearning Commission and provided consultation to a number of special committees and focus groups. Other efforts include implementation of youth leadership and empowerment activities and the build out of STEM career awareness. Prior to joining the Collaborative Project, Alfred served public education as the Director of Information Resources Affairs and Director of Special Projects at the University of North Carolina - Office of the President. During this tenure, Alfred was responsible for the coordination of several special initiatives and collaborative efforts within the Division of Information Resources and served as a central liaison for the 16-campus system and various state agencies. Alfred’s other work experience includes service as a regional director for the North Carolina Model Teacher Education Consortium (UNC-General Administration) and Program Consultant within the North Carolina State Department of Public Instruction.

Alfred currently serves as Chair of the Public School Forum Board of Directors and Vice Chair for the National STEM Funders Network. He has been recognized for his contributions with many organizational successes to include Government Wide Best Practices. An Air Force veteran, Alfred received a Bachelor of Science degree from Wilmington College and a Master of Science degree in Administration from Central Michigan University.

REMARKS:
Dr. LaTricia Townsend
NC Department of Public Instruction
Dr. LaTricia Townsend currently serves as the Director of Federal Programs at the North Carolina Department of Instruction (NCDPI) where she leads a strong team of dedicated and hard-working professionals and manages a portfolio of her six billion dollars. She joined NC DPI from the Friday Institute for Educational Innovation at North Carolina State University in 2020, where she served as the Director of the Research and Evaluation Team. She has extensive experience in educational research, program evaluation, grant management, leadership development, and work focused on improving educational outcomes for students. Dr. Townsend has 26 years of experience in the field of education. Before coming to the Friday Institute in 2008, Dr. Townsend served as a Science Content Specialist with Technical Outreach to Public Schools (TOPS) at the Center for Urban Affairs and Community Services at North Carolina State University, where she aided in the development of statewide standardized science assessments. She also worked as a research chemist for the Dow Corning Corporation in Midland, Michigan for two years before becoming a science and math teacher. She taught Chemistry, as well as Algebra I and II for nearly ten years with both Saginaw City Schools and Wake County Public Schools. Dr. Townsend received a Bachelor of Science degree in Textile Chemistry with a concentration in Polymer Chemistry at North Carolina State University, followed by teacher licensure from Saginaw Valley State University. She then earned a Master of School Administration and a Doctorate in Educational Administration and Supervision from North Carolina State University.
TOUCH THE SKY – A STEM+ JOURNEY OF EXPLORATION

The Synergy conference theme of “FORWARD” exemplifies Captain Irving and his STEM+ Journey. Educators are presently facing many challenges and ramifications due to COVID-19. Educators are seeking ways in which to be inspired, apply relevant content to the classroom, and engage students. Students received the ultimate form of freedom during COVID and many were forgotten by adults. Captain Irving will highlight how to strategically move FORWARD with STEMpathy, purposeful learning, engagement strategies, and STEM+ learning models. Captain Irving is a perfect candidate to demonstrate proof of concept.

KEYNOTE SPEAKER
Captain Barrington Irving
Flying Classroom

Captain Barrington Irving has traveled to over 70 countries, conducted more than 70 STEM expeditions, and successfully challenged middle school students to build a car faster than a Ferrari 430 and then high schoolers to build a plane he flew on its test flight. In 2007, he set two world records—at age 23—as the youngest person and first black pilot to fly solo around the world. He has a passion to explore, inspire, and educate others. Now 38, Barrington is an explorer that investigates real world STEM problems across the globe. Established by Captain Irving in 2014, the Flying Classroom is a K-8 STEM+ digital curriculum that challenges students to design innovative solutions to the problems he investigates.

Before founding the Flying Classroom, Barrington created a nonprofit, Experience Aviation, which offers hands-on, STEM-based programs and career guidance to middle and high school students all throughout the country.

Born in Kingston, Jamaica and brought up in inner-city Miami, Barrington was inspired to pursue aviation at age 15, when a Jamaican airline pilot offered to mentor him. He rejected college football scholarships to pursue a career in STEM and never looked back.

A Magna Cum Laude graduate of Florida Memorial University, Barrington was the recipient of a Congressional Resolution acknowledging his pioneering work in aviation education. He received the Guinness World Record as the youngest person to fly solo around the world and was named a National Geographic Emerging Explorer in 2012.

12:00 pm – 1:45 pm
AFTERSCHOOL CHAMPION AWARD CEREMONY

During this award ceremony, the North Carolina Center for Afterschool Programs will recognize individuals, programs and organizations that have demonstrated outstanding work in developing, supporting, and promoting high-quality afterschool and out-of-school time programs to benefit youth and families statewide. The Afterschool Champion Awards are divided into two categories: Emerging Afterschool Champions and Lifetime Afterschool Champions.

The Emerging Afterschool Champion Category spotlights individuals, programs, or organizations whose life or mission has demonstrated considerable work in developing, supporting and promoting high-quality afterschool and out-of-school time programs to benefit youth and families. Recipients of this award have between three (3) and ten (10) years of service to youth.

The Lifetime Afterschool Champion Category spotlights individuals, programs, or organizations whose life or mission has demonstrated outstanding work in developing, supporting and promoting high-quality afterschool and out-of-school time programs to benefit youth and families. Awardees within this category have dedicated more than ten (10) years of service to youth.

This year’s Emerging Afterschool Champion Awardees are Amanda Grover, Pam Hyatt, Nancy Leach and Carolyn Ross- Holmes.

This year’s Lifetime Afterschool Champion Awardees are Cyntavia Bryant, Ebony Burnett and Shawna Spencer.

EMERGING CHAMPION AWARDEE:
Amanda Grover
YMCA of the Triangle

Amanda Grover is a Youth Director at the Northwest Cary YMCA. Amanda became involved with YMCA of the Triangle at the age of 14 as a Camper in Leadership Training. She soon began her career as an After School and then Summer Camp Counselor and started to discover and refine her leadership skills very quickly. Her love and passion for supporting kids through all stages of their childhood and growth led her to study Child Development and Psychology.
at Meredith College. After getting married and settling into what she hoped would be a career in Youth Development, she decided to pursue her Master of Education in Child and Family Studies and Early Childhood Mental Health at the University of North Carolina at Charlotte. After completing her degree, she returned to the YMCA of the Triangle as a Youth Director and has since pivoted in and out of many roles supporting our community throughout the COVID-19 pandemic. Currently, Amanda continues to maximize her passion and skills around Social-Emotional Learning in our before/after schools and summer day camp programs.

**EMERGING CHAMPION Awardee:**

**Pam Hyatt**  
*The Dream Center*

Pam Hyatt is the Executive Director at The Dream Center, a nonprofit after-school program for at-risk students in Randolph County. Over the course of 10 years, she has supported the development of a STREAM (science, technology, reading, engineering, art, and mathematics) learning program, SEL (social-emotional learning) program, and a CCR (college and career readiness) program, in collaboration with the North Carolina Center for Afterschool Programs (NC CAP) and Jobs for the Future (JFF). She has been instrumental in the sustainability of The Dream Center and its initiatives by writing high-quality grants such as 21st CCLC and private grants. She has collaborated with NASA and the Department of Education on engaging youth in meaningful and relevant STEM content. In recent years, Pam has continued to expand her professional repertoire by becoming an ACRES (Afterschool Coaching for Reflective Educators in STEM) certified Trainer, in which she is able to support out-of-school time professionals nationwide by increasing their confidence and competency in their STEM facilitation.

She is originally from Pennsylvania, where she received her Bachelor’s degree in Elementary Education and Spanish from Shippensburg University. She is a National Board-certified educator. She taught for 6 years in 4th and 5th grade in Franklin County and Asheboro City Schools. Currently, she lives in Asheboro with her husband, two children, and her dog Mini. When she is not working, she is either kayaking or traveling.

**EMERGING CHAMPION Awardee:**

**Nancy Leach**  
*Hyde County Schools*

Nancy Leach is the Program Director of the Hyde 21st Century Community Learning Center, and the Director of Student Services and Grants Management for Hyde County Schools. Hyde 21st CCLC’s afterschool program serves 200 children at two distinct sites. One site is located in beautiful mainland Hyde County and surrounded by fields of crops and wide open spaces. The other site is on Ocracoke Island, a 14-mile long island accessible only by ferry. Leach has called Ocracoke home for over 25 years, and loves being able to provide opportunities for youth as well as working toward strengthening families and her community who live in extremely rural Hyde County. Leach enjoys working mainly from her office on Ocracoke, but does take the 2hr45min (one-way) ferry to work on the mainland 1-2 times per week. Leach was born about 50 miles from where she lives now, and has also lived in Charleston, SC (where she earned her BFA); Rome, Italy (where she studied art for one year); and Philadelphia (where she earned her MFA). When she’s not working, Leach loves to garden, play around on boats, or do just about anything with her middle school-aged daughter.

**EMERGING CHAMPION Awardee:**

**Carolyn Ross-Holmes**  
*C.A.R.E./The John 3:16 Center*

Carolyn Ross-Holmes serves as Program Director for CARE/The John 3:16 Center in Littleton, North Carolina. Her 30 years of experience in youth related service is channeled in programs to engage, educate and encourage children and their families. Programs such as “Wired for Success” afterschool program and J316 Summer Camp were adapted to virtual experiences to allow staying connected during isolating circumstances and Table Talk to bring parents together for dinner and conversation in building stronger relationships within the group as a part of the COVID recovery. Her experiences in leadership covers a broad spectrum of roles from PTA to school board member to community activist in establishing the Ella Baker Educational Project of N.C. She brings her passion for exploring various cultures through the arts, always seeking to understand technology and the value of its language in coding and encouraging civic engagement as an expectation of all. Establishing relationships and collaborating with various resources to provide experiences for the families served is a trademark of many of the programs she has developed. Her
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strong faith is shared as a Catechist for over 15 years and is the foundation of her fearless spirit.

Carolyn is devoted to her husband, Donald of 37 years, and their two amazing daughters Ashley and Erica that have extended her family to include two wonderful sons-in-law and so far, one grandson, Jordan (aka the Prince) and grand-dog, Tyson! She and Donald reside on Lake Gaston.

LIFETIME CHAMPION AWARDEE:

Cyntavia Bryant
Charlotte-Mecklenburg
ACE 21st CCLC Program

Cyntavia Bryant was born in Salisbury and raised in Charlotte, North Carolina and is a graduate of West Charlotte Senior High School. She has dedicated her life to children as an employee at Charlotte-Mecklenburg Schools.

Ms. Bryant as served children and caregivers as an afterschool site coordinator for over 21 years. In addition, Cyntavia has served as CMS’ Academic & Cultural Enrichment 21st CCLC Program for 9 years.

Cyntavia’s overarching goal is to reach and inspire every scholar that attends ACE Program. She believes that every human being matters and are valued in this world, particularly children living in poverty. Ms. Bryant’s favorite motto is “Be the Change you wish to see in the world.” As a single mother, Cyntavia has raised two wonderful boys to become outstanding young men. One son is a barber, and the other son currently working at Amazon.

During Cyntavia’s spare time, which is sparingly, she loves traveling, fine dining, reading, and recharging her battery to make the greatest impact on children when she returns to work!

LIFETIME CHAMPION AWARDEE:

Ebony Burnett
YMCA of Greensboro

Ebony currently serves at the YMCA Greensboro as the Senior Association Youth Development Director. As a director at the Hayes-Taylor YMCA she designed an inclusive sensory playground to ensure all children can be included in play. Her programs received National recognition for their work in character development and the social and emotional development of youth by YUSA. She was a panel speaker for the YUSA character development capacity building conference in 2019. Her desire is for the YMCA of Greensboro to be positioned as a leader in character development for the youth in our community.

But, Ebony’s greatest accomplishment has been in the growth and development of the youth leaders and the youth that she is able to mentor and serve every day. She enjoys coaching timid college students in classroom management, personal development and emotional intelligence. She delights in watching them thrive and become strong and confident elementary, middle and high school classroom leaders and school administrators; some of whom did not plan to become educators at all. God has allowed her influence to reach far beyond what her eyes can see. God’s fingerprint on her life has left a lasting impact on the youth and community she tirelessly serves. Ebony feels blessed to work with organizations that provide the platform to fulfill God’s purpose for her life.

LIFETIME CHAMPION AWARDEE:

Shawna Spencer
YMCA of Greensboro

Shawna Spencer is a passionate Youth Development Professional who leads with the concept of intentional fun. She is a graduate of the University of North Carolina at Greensboro with a Bachelor’s of Science and currently serves as the Youth Development Director for the Ragsdale Family YMCA, a branch of the YMCA of Greensboro. Through her fifteen years of service, she has facilitated engaging and innovative programming for youth through After School, Summer Day Camp, Family and Community outreach programs. As a dedicated and mission driven leader for the YMCA of the USA, Shawna holds her YUSA Team Leader Certification and is a member of the YMCA Professional Network. Along with her impactful work within Youth Development, Shawna is passionate about leading and developing the next generation of Youth Development Professionals and is inspired daily by the joy she sees in the eyes of the youth her organization serves.
REMARKS:
Jodi Grant
Afterschool Alliance

Since 2005, Jodi Grant has been Executive Director of the Afterschool Alliance, a nonprofit public awareness and advocacy organization working to ensure that all children and youth have access to quality, affordable afterschool programs. As Executive Director, she oversees federal policy efforts, works with the field to help programs tap into federal funding streams, and supervises research to help national, state and local afterschool advocates and providers support, create and expand quality afterschool programs.

Prior to joining the Afterschool Alliance, Grant served as Director of Work and Family Programs for the National Partnership for Women & Families, where she worked to protect and expand the Family & Medical Leave Act and was a member of the team that successfully defended the law before the U.S. Supreme Court. Prior to that, she worked on Capitol Hill as General Counsel to the Senate Budget Committee and as Staff Director for a Senate Committee. Her legislative accomplishments include expanded support for the child tax credit, the Child Health Insurance Program, and class size reduction. She also served as liaison to the National Governors’ Association, where she worked closely with Republican and Democratic governors.

Grant currently serves as a Board Member of the Search Institute, on the Coalition for Community Schools Steering Committee and as a Trustee of the America’s Promise Alliance. Grant, her husband and two children live in Washington, D.C.

REMARKS:
Gwynn Hughes
Charles Stewart Mott Foundation

Gwynn Hughes joined Mott as a program officer in 2010 and was named a senior program officer five years later. She manages the Foundation’s largest grantmaking portfolio, Advancing Afterschool, which supports — among many other organizations — 50 statewide afterschool networks.

Prior to joining the Foundation, Hughes served as executive director of the Massachusetts Afterschool Partnership in Boston from 2004 through 2010. She also held several positions with the State of Massachusetts, where she focused on policy and practice initiatives supporting children and families, serving consecutively as director of labor relations, chief operating officer of the Office of Child Care Services, and chief of Project Management and Policy Support for the Executive Office of Health and Human Services.

A graduate of Wellesley College, Hughes earned her master’s degree in music from the University of Virginia in Charlottesville. In 1998, she received a Juris Doctor from the Northeastern University School of Law in Boston.
REMARKS:
Gina Warner
National Afterschool Association

Gina Warner was named President and CEO of the National AfterSchool Association in June 2012. NAA—the voice of the afterschool profession—has over 36,000 members across the country and hosts the most comprehensive program of professional development opportunities for afterschool professionals anywhere in the United States.

In her role Warner has introduced a number of innovations to the organization, including the first nationally-recognized credentialing platform for afterschool professionals, an Afterschool Digital Learning toolkit created in partnership with Google, and two national leadership initiatives focused on emerging leaders in the afterschool field. She has also worked to broaden and expand the reach of NAA, diversifying its partnership through the creation of a Corporate Advisory Board and the International Learning Exchange Program.

Prior to her time at NAA, Warner served as the Executive Director of the Partnership for Youth Development in New Orleans, Louisiana, where she helped existing and new afterschool programs as they sought to serve children and families in post-Katrina New Orleans. She is also a former public school teacher and U.S. Senate staffer. Warner is a 1990 graduate of the University of South Alabama and a 1995 graduate of Loyola Law School. She and her family live in the DC area.

SPEAKER:
R. Barbour
North Carolina Department of Public Instruction

Lynne Barbour is the Deputy Director for the Office of Learning Recovery and Acceleration which serves public schools by providing research, evaluation, and technical expertise to assist in the development and deployment of evidence-based interventions to aid in recovery and accelerate learning for all students. In her role within NCDPI, Lynne served as the project manager for the 2021 state-wide summer school extension program and continues to develop programs that will best serve students recovering from lost instructional time. Lynne provides technical assistance, resources, and guidance to PSU leadership and staff on their development and implementation of high-impact ESSER-funded programs. Lynne has extensive experience in large-scale program development, deployment, and management in both the non-profit and higher education landscapes. Lynne holds a master’s degree from NC State and is a proud parent to two children in the North Carolina public school system.

SPEAKER:
Jeni Corn
North Carolina Department of Public Instruction

Jeni Corn is the new Director of Research and Evaluation for the Office of Learning Recovery and Acceleration at NCDPI. Jeni has extensive experience conducting research in school settings and providing technical assistance to school, district, and statelevel education staff focused on research, evaluation, and policy in the southeast – most extensively in North Carolina. Most recently she served as the Director of Strategic Initiatives for myFutureNC, working with sector leaders and education stakeholders to strengthen pathways in support of the statewide attainment goal. As the Director of Evaluation Programs at the Friday Institute for Educational Innovation for more than ten years, Jeni led several large, statewide evaluation and research studies of innovations in K-12 schools and districts, including leading the evaluation of initiatives funded under North Carolina’s Race to the Top grant and development of the North Carolina Digital Learning Plan.

Jeni grew up in Greensboro and graduated from Page High School. She went on to UNC-Chapel Hill for undergraduate and master’s degree before moving to Raleigh to pursue her
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doctorate at NCSU. She lives in Raleigh with her 11-year old daughter and their 1-year old puppy Dolly Parton.

7:30 am - 8:45 am

STEM FORWARD
This plenary will showcase the importance of STEM as a learning tool to help students recover from the long-term impacts of the pandemic. Attendees will learn about the value of STEM, data related to STEM across the nation and the state and engage in a hands-on STEM activity.

FACILITATOR:
Chris Neitzey
Afterschool Alliance
Chris Neitzey joined the Afterschool Alliance in August 2018 and serves as the Director of State Policy. In this role, Chris works to support state efforts to expand access to high-quality afterschool and summer programming. Chris previously served as the Director of STEM Initiatives until December 2021. Prior to joining the Afterschool Alliance, Chris led the policy and advocacy work of the New York State Network for Youth Success, New York’s statewide afterschool network. Chris also worked for the Maryland Science Center prior to his work in New York, delivering STEM programs to students in-school and in afterschool programs across the mid-Atlantic region. Chris holds a bachelor’s degree in Geography from Towson University and a master’s in Nonprofit Management from Northeastern University.

FACILITATOR:
Sheneika Simmons
North Carolina Center for Afterschool Programs
As the Program Manager for North Carolina Center for Afterschool Programs (NC CAP), Sheneika works with the NC CAP Director to develop, lead, coordinate, and drive the NC Network’s initiatives. She supports the design and delivery of various professional development opportunities, advocacy, and the shaping policy that assists in the advancement of out-of-school time learning. Prior to joining NC CAP, Sheneika earned a Bachelor’s of Science degree in Psychology from Ferrum College and a Masters of Science in Educational Studies from Johns Hopkins University. Currently, she is working towards her Ph.D. in Human Services with an emphasis in Community Intervention and Intervention from Walden University. Sheneika is a Teach For America, Eastern North Carolina Corps Member Alumni (2015), and a StartingBloc Raleigh-Durham (2018) Fellow. Since joining Teach For America, Sheneika remained in the classroom until joining NC CAP. She has been able to work with youth, communities, and programs in various capacities. Sheneika is passionate about the future of youth in North Carolina and supporting them. As a former educator, she still continues to focus on fostering positive relationships for youth and promoting strategic programming that enhances the whole child.

FACILITATOR:
Sesha Woodard
Dropping Seeds in Motion
Sesha Woodard is a Scientist and Licensed Dancer with over 25 years of experience. She helps the next generation reach academic success…all through ART INTEGRATION (movement and dance). She started Dropping Seeds in Motion with a purpose to propel youth educationally, emotionally, physically, and spiritually. Sesha brings dynamic science through movement and dance-based programs and professional development to schools, universities, daycare centers, youth groups, and more! Leading Personalized Digital Learning and testified before Congress on personalizing learning.
11:45 am - 12:30 pm

CLOSING PLENARY

The closing plenary will close this year’s Synergy Conference. The plenary will feature remarks from stakeholders and the video overview of this year’s in-person conference experience.

REMARKS:
Julie Cary
Boys & Girls Clubs of the Coastal Plain

Julie Cary began her work with the Boys & Girls Clubs of the Coastal Plain as Director of Strategic Partnerships in Sept 2016 upon her retirement from Pitt County Schools after 32 years of service as a teacher and principal. Julie was appointed principal of a PreK-8 School, Middle School and High School during her tenure. She also teaches for the College of Education at ECU. In her role as Director of Strategic Partnerships for the Boys & Girls Clubs of the Coastal Plain, she works to enhance programming for the youth attending Boys & Girls Clubs by networking, collaborating and partnering with community partners in each of the seven counties in which the organization serves youth.

“What guides my work is that I am passionate about making a positive difference in the lives of children in eastern North Carolina by providing opportunities and exposure that they may NOT otherwise have. Children cannot BE what they cannot SEE. Collaboration is essential to my work in making this a reality.”

REMARKS:
Tammorah Mathis
Orange County Schools

Tammorah joined the Orange County Schools, School Community Relations Department as the Director of Afterschool Programs in October 2021. She was previously with the NC Department of Public Instruction, Federal Programs Monitoring and Support Division as a Program Administrator of the 21st Century Community Learning Centers Program. She thoroughly enjoys her career working with programs, students and families, along with networking with other entities who are engaged with positive youth development. She is a native of Bladen County, NC via Fort Benning, Georgia. Prior to joining NC DPI, she served as the Dean of Students and Response to Instruction (RtI) Administrator at W.G. Pearson Elementary in Durham Public Schools. She has over 20 years of experience working with Out-of-School Time Programs as she started with Middle Schools Programs in Durham Public Schools. Tammorah has experience working as an Exceptional Children’s classroom teacher and assistant, bus driver, cafeteria staff, out-of-school time group leader, volunteer and member of the PTA for a total of 28 years across North Carolina. She currently serves as the Co-Chair of the NC CAP Advisory Board and a newly appointed member to the Board of Directors of the Public School Forum of North Carolina. She earned a Master’s Degree in School Administration from the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill and an Undergraduate Degree in Political Science, with a concentration in Public Administration, from North Carolina Central University.

REMARKS:
Dr. Mary Ann Wolf
Public School Forum of North Carolina

Mary Ann Wolf, Ph.D. is the President and Executive Director of the Public School Forum of North Carolina. Mary Ann has 25 years of experience in educational policy and leadership working directly with schools and districts across the country and North Carolina to improve equity and build capacity for innovation.

Previously, Mary Ann was the chair, vice chair, and a member of the Chapel Hill Carrboro City School Board. She was the Senior Director of the Professional Learning and Leading Collaborative (PLLC) at the Friday Institute for Educational Innovation at NC State University. She and her team lead ongoing, job-embedded professional learning to guide superintendents, district teams, and principals, coaches, and teachers in North Carolina and across the country. Mary Ann and her team also led the development of the Learning Differences and Social and Emotional Learning (SEL) online courses and micro-credentials, with over 20,000 participants across the world. Mary Ann co-wrote Leading Personalized and Digital Learning: A Framework for Implementing School Change through Harvard Education Press, as well as many other publications on personalized learning, culture, leadership, and learning analytics.

Mary Ann previously served as the Executive Director of the State Educational Technology Directors Association (SETDA), working with state leaders from all fifty states, and testified before Congress on personalized and digital learning. After teaching fifth grade in Henrico, Virginia, Mary Ann received her Ph.D. in Education, Administration and Supervision from The Curry School of Education at the University of Virginia. She received a Master’s of Education from The George Washington University and a bachelor’s degree in accounting and marketing from Georgetown University. Mary Ann lives in Chapel Hill with her husband, Brian; and she has three children, Marin, Matthew, and Andrew, who attend — or have attended — public schools in NC.
The North Carolina State Afterschool Network (NC CAP) celebrates 20 years of service to the Out-of-School Time field in North Carolina. In this panel, the former and current leads of the network will share insight on the successes and challenges that were overcome by the field during their tenure. Additionally, the leads will share their hopes as they look #Forward to the future for the youth, families and the OST field at-large statewide.

MODERATOR:
Dr. Terry Peterson
Mott Foundation, Riley Institute, Afterschool Alliance

Former US Secretary of Education and Governor Dick Riley, calls Dr. Peterson the “guru” of large-scale school reform.

Terry’s work includes developing strategies for innovative education improvement strategies across America and in developing countries. Two very important components of his portfolio of successful strategies include expanding comprehensive afterschool and summer learning enrichment opportunities and partnerships. Terry is the education advisor for the Mott Foundation, Senior Education Fellow at the Riley Institute and Vice-chair of the Afterschool Alliance.

Dr. Peterson combines his knowledge of how to develop positive education advancements and his practical experiences as an educator working at all levels with his doctorate in research and statistics to advise on improving educational opportunities from school houses to state houses to the White House. His most recent report with Dr. Deborah Lowe Vandell makes the research case for the evidence base for afterschool and summer learning and using the American Rescue Plan education funds for these purposes. An earlier book he developed, with almost 100 authors, is the most comprehensive compendium on the topic and is called Expanding Minds and Opportunities: Leveraging the Power of Afterschool and Summer Learning for Student Success.

PANELIST:
Dr. Sheronda Fleming
North Carolina Center for Afterschool Programs

Dr. Sheronda Witter Fleming is the Director of the North Carolina Center for Afterschool Programs, NC CAP. As a college student, Sheronda founded the Ladies of Distinction mentoring program for middle school girls, which ignited a passion within her regarding the necessity for access to out-of-school time learning opportunities for all youth. Following that trajectory, Sheronda has spent the last 17 years serving youth in South and North Carolina through an array of roles in out-of-school time programs and youth serving organizations. Since 2017, Sheronda has been at the helm of NC CAP, working to support afterschool professionals and advocate for out-of-school time opportunities for youth statewide. Through her role, she has learned that how a child spends their time before school, after school and during the summer has an impact on their outcomes in school and in life. A proud graduate of Furman University, Sheronda also holds a Master’s Degree in Youth Development Leadership from Clemson University and a Doctorate of Philosophy in K-12 Education Research and Policy Analysis at North Carolina State University.
**Virtual Plenaries**

**PANELIST:**

**Jamie Knowles-Griffith**  
*American Cancer Society*

Jamie Knowles-Griffiths is the Director of Estate and Planned Giving for the American Cancer Society, supporting efforts across North Carolina and South Carolina for the organization’s largest funding stream. Her role includes educating estate planning professionals about charitable giving strategies, engaging and stewarding donors and volunteers, and conducting community outreach. She has raised over $17.5 Million in major and planned gifts since being named to her position in 2013.

Jamie is a Past President of the Wake County Estate Planning Council and a member of the Durham-Orange Estate Planning Council, National Association of Charitable Gift Planners, and NC Girls STEM Collaborative Champions Board. Jamie holds a Bachelor’s Degree from UNC-Chapel Hill and her Master’s Degree in Public Administration from North Carolina State University. In 2018, she was awarded the prestigious CFRE (Certified Fund Raising Executive) designation. She is an alumna of Leadership Raleigh, NC Education Policy Fellowship Program and Global Education Policy Fellowship Program. Having visited over 20 countries, she carries a passion for cross-cultural sharing and global literacy.

Jamie’s favorite title is being Mom to the light of her life, sweet Oliver (2½). They live in Raleigh and enjoy exploring near and far together.

**PANELIST:**

**Del Ruff**  
*North Carolina Agricultural & Technical State University*

Del L. Ruff is an accomplished thought-leader and professional with more than 20 years of experience advocating for diversity, equity, inclusion, accessibility, and belonging in education and industry. He has worked as an educator, school-building principal, district and state-level administrator, researcher, director in K-20 with a future-forward philosophy.

Before coming to North Carolina A&T, he was the senior director of workforce and EDI strategies with the American Institute of Architects in Washington, D.C. In that role, he led a team focused on increasing equity, diversity, and inclusion in architecture, with emphasis on increasing exposure to historically underrepresented students in K-12, supporting the pathway to the profession for students studying architecture in higher education institutions, especially HBCUs, and fostering belongingness and a more inclusive architecture profession for architects and designers.

Mr. Ruff is a graduate of Fayetteville State University with a Bachelor of Science in Biology and Central Michigan University with a Masters in Leadership Studies.

As the inaugural executive diversity and inclusion officer, Mr. Ruff’s primary responsibility is to provide strategic leadership and administrative oversight for researching, developing, implementing, and maintaining a range of successful practices for supporting and prioritizing equity, diversity, inclusiveness, and, most importantly belongingness.

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**FORWARD WITH MOMENTUM:**  
**DEFYING THE ODDS IN AFTERSCHOOL**

This panel will reunite program providers from across North Carolina that were featured during the Synergy Conference 2021 plenary on Revolutionizing Afterschool in the Midst of a Global Pandemic. Each returning program provider will provide updates on how their programs have continued to rise to the moment to address the needs of youth and families in their communities in the midst of the pandemic. Additionally, program providers will provide insight into how their programs plan to move forward to partner with schools and families to ensure that youth program participants thrive through the recovery process. Amber Rupinta from ABC 11 Eyewitness News will facilitate the panel discussion.

**PANEL FACILITATOR:**

**Amber Rupinta**  
*ABC 11 Eyewitness News*

Amber Rupinta anchors the 4:00 and 5:00 evening newscasts on ABC11 Eyewitness News. She is also a meteorologist and reports on various stories throughout the Triangle. Amber joined ABC11 in February 2004 spending the next five years as the weekend morning co-anchor followed by eight years as an early riser for ABC11 Eyewitness News This Morning before moving to the evening team. Amber is no stranger to the Carolinas having spent several years growing up on the Cherokee Indian Reservation. She is one of 8 children and a “military brat”
who spent her childhood in interesting places all over the U.S. Amber’s father joined the U.S. Navy to immigrate to America from the Philippines. She is a member of the Asian-American Journalists Association, the National Weather Association and a graduate of Towson University. In 2016, she completed Mississippi State’s Meteorology Certificate program and earned a graduate certificate in Technology and Communication from UNC Chapel Hill. In August 2017, she earned a second BS in Geoscience from MSU.

**PANELIST:**

**Pam Hyatt**  
*The Dream Center*

Pam Hyatt is the Executive Director at The Dream Center, a nonprofit after-school program for at-risk students in Randolph County. Over the course of 10 years, she has supported the development of a STREAM (science, technology, reading, engineering, art, and mathematics) learning program, SEL (social-emotional learning) program, and a CCR (college and career readiness) program, in collaboration with the North Carolina Center for Afterschool Programs (NC CAP) and Jobs for the Future (JFF). She has been instrumental in the sustainability of The Dream Center and its initiatives by writing high-quality grants such as 21st CCLC and private grants. She has collaborated with NASA and the Department of Education on engaging youth in meaningful and relevant STEM content. In recent years, Pam has continued to expand her professional repertoire by becoming an ACRES (Afterschool Coaching for Reflective Educators in STEM) certified Trainer, in which she is able to support out-of-school time professionals nationwide by increasing their confidence and competency in their STEM facilitation.

She is originally from Pennsylvania, where she received her Bachelor’s degree in Elementary Education and Spanish from Shippensburg University. She is a National Board-certified educator. She taught for 6 years in 4th and 5th grade in Franklin County and Asheboro City Schools. Currently, she lives in Asheboro with her husband, two children, and her dog Mini. When she is not working, she is either kayaking or traveling.

**PANELIST:**

**Rodney McCormick**  
*Southeast YMCA*

Rodney began his YMCA career as a summer camp counselor at the Alexander YMCA in May of 2010 while attending NC State. Rodney then continued with the Y in various programs (afterschool, before school, track out camps, and summer day camps) until he graduated, and was later offered a full time position with the YMCA. In May of 2014 Rodney accepted a position in Southeast Raleigh (SE) as a Youth Director and began to lead Camp Renaissance (SE Raleigh premier day camp) at the Director level. Rodney is currently a Senior Youth Director for The Southeast Raleigh YMCA, where he has added multiple programs, and grew a full time team from one to four. Rodney is extremely passionate about supporting children and families through a race equity lens. Rodney lives in Southeast Raleigh with his beautiful wife, Anna McCormick, their 2 girls, and a house divided flag that waves high for all Wolfpack fans to see.

**PANELIST:**

**Leonard Paulk**  
*The Boys & Girls Clubs of the Coastal Plains*

Leonard Paulk currently serves as one of three Directors of Education for The Boys & Girls Clubs of the Coastal Plain. The Boys & Girls Clubs of the Coastal Plain (BGCCP) serves youth ages 6-18 in seven rural counties in eastern North Carolina. In this role, Leonard’s responsibilities include overseeing the Club Academy Program in two of the seventeen clubs in the organization. The Club Academy Program provides enrichment services and activities in the core content areas of reading and writing, which enhance the overall academic performance of qualifying K-3 club members. This program is a collaboration between the participating public school systems and BGCCP. Academic support is provided during the school day at the school by BGCCP staff as well as at the club after school. Leonard is a graduate of East Carolina University with a degree in education. In addition to his studies, he played football and ran track. Leonard and his wife, Marquita live in Greenville, NC with their children: Alyvia and Leonard IV.

**PANELIST:**

**Carolyn Ross-Holmes**  
*C.A.R.E./The John 3:16 Center*

Carolyn Ross-Holmes serves as Program Director for CARE/The John 3:16 Center in Littleton, North Carolina. Her 30 years of experience in youth related service is channeled in programs to engage, educate and encourage children and their families. Programs such as “Wired for Success” afterschool program and J316 Summer Camp were adapted to virtual experiences to allow
staying connected during isolating circumstances and Table Talk to bring parents together for dinner and conversation in building stronger relationships within the group as a part of the COVID recovery. Her experiences in leadership covers a broad spectrum of roles from PTA to school board member to community activist in establishing the Ella Baker Educational Project of N.C. She brings her passion for exploring various cultures through the arts, always seeking to understand technology and the value of its language in coding and encouraging civic engagement as an expectation of all. Establishing relationships and collaborating with various resources to provide experiences for the families served is a trademark of many of the programs she has developed. Her strong faith is shared as a Catechist for over 15 years and is the foundation of her fearless spirit.

Carolyn is devoted to her husband, Donald of 37 years, and their two amazing daughters Ashley and Erica that have extended her family to include two wonderful sons-in-law and so far, one grandson, Jordan (aka the Prince) and grand-dog, Tyson! She and Donald reside on Lake Gaston.

PANELIST:
Elizabeth Scott
Boys & Girls Clubs of the Tar River Region

Elizabeth Scott is the Academic Success Coordinator with Boys & Girls Clubs of the Tar River Region where she has worked since 2017. Elizabeth also serves as the I-CARES Program Director, overseeing four middle school Boys & Girls Clubs within the Nash County Public School System. Her educational background in both early childhood education and visual arts (attended both East Carolina and Virginia Commonwealth Universities) has been very beneficial to her work, especially over these past few years. Elizabeth has found she has had to be more creative than ever, as she navigates forward from the challenges brought on by the Covid-19 pandemic. She and her husband Darin live in Rocky Mount. They have one daughter Lily, who works and lives in the Raleigh/Durham area.

YOUTH VOICES AMPLIFIED

During this panel, youth of all ages will discuss their experiences in afterschool, before school, and summer programs during the pandemic. In addition to discussing their experiences in programs, they will describe the impact those programs have had on their academic attainment and overall well-being. Youth panelists will also have an opportunity to advocate for themselves, their programs and their communities.

MODERATOR:
Sheneika Simmons
North Carolina Center for Afterschool Programs

As the Program Manager for North Carolina Center for Afterschool Programs (NC CAP), Sheneika works with the NC CAP Director to develop, lead, coordinate, and drive the NC Network’s initiatives. She supports the design and delivery of various professional development opportunities, advocacy, and the shaping policy that assists in the advancement of out-of-school time learning. Prior to joining NC CAP, Sheneika earned a Bachelor’s of Science degree in Psychology from Ferrum College and a Masters of Science in Educational Studies from Johns Hopkins University. Currently, she is working towards her Ph.D. in Human Services with an emphasis in Community Intervention and Intervention from Walden University. Sheneika is a Teach For America, Eastern North Carolina Corps Member Alumni (2015), and a StartingBloc Raleigh-Durham (2018) Fellow. Since joining Teach For America, Sheneika remained in the classroom until joining NC CAP. She has been able to work with youth, communities, and programs in various capacities. Sheneika is passionate about the future of youth in North Carolina and supporting them. As a former educator, she still continues to focus on fostering positive relationships for youth and promoting strategic programming that enhances the whole child.
ELECTED OFFICIAL:
Amber M. Baker, Ph.D.
North Carolina Representative

Representative Dr. Amber M. Baker is an educator, organizational consultant, entrepreneur, motivational speaker, and State Representative of the 72nd North Carolina legislative district. While working with urban educators to create substantive change in the climate and integrating a holistic approach to educating students, Dr. Baker incorporated a multiple intelligence approach that engaged individuals in a structured process of rethinking leadership in the workplace, school and community. Dr. Baker has also worked with major school districts on infusing culturally relevant training and professional development into the various tiers of administration. Her methodologies yielded substantial growth in the area of achievement in K-12 education, particularly highly impacted schools. As principal of Kimberley Park Elementary school, Dr. Baker worked collaboratively with a variety of stakeholders to create an enriched learning environment for a highly impacted population of students and families. Serving as an adjunct professor at The Ohio State University and Shaw University satellite campus further diversified her repertoire as an educator, as well. In the fall of 2020, Representative Dr. Baker was duly elected to the legislative seat for the 72nd district of North Carolina, and is currently serving in the North Carolina House of Representatives.
### WORKSHOP BLOCK A SESSIONS

| Alice Isn’t the Only One with a Looking Glass: Cultural Inclusivity in Children’s Literature |  |
| Implementing Culturally Relevant Pedagogy to Navigate Critical Conversations |  |
| Possible Futures: Engaging Youth in CCR |  |
| Real Challenge – Real Solutions! |  |
| S+E+L = Supporting Every Learner with Magic & Meaning |  |
| SEL Beyond the Classroom Walls: Integrating Culturally Responsive SEL Activities into After-School and Summer Programming |  |
| Using Coaching Skills to Support Your Staff and Youth |  |

#### Alice Isn’t the Only One with a Looking Glass: Cultural Inclusivity in Children’s Literature
**Strand:** Arts & Literacy  
**Location:** Grandover East  
Garrison Keillor is credited with saying, “A book is a gift you can open again and again.” True, indeed, but imagine receiving a gift and finding that it is nice enough, but it doesn’t suit you. It doesn’t speak to your interests, your hobbies, your likes, the things that tell the story of you. Now imagine getting that same not-a-fit gift again and again. This is all too often the case with children’s books. In order to become avid readers and to reap the full benefits of lifelong literacy, children have to see both themselves and worlds beyond their own in the stories they read. This isn’t possible if children don’t have regular access to books that represent people from all walks of life. Designed to illuminate this inequity in representation in children’s books and the importance of portraying ALL children, honoring diverse backgrounds, languages, abilities, and perspectives, as well as including stories by and about people of color, this workshop will act as the foundation for rethinking the diversity of your program’s bookshelves to promote and support literacy-rich experiences.

**Presenter:** Amy Franks, Book Harvest

#### Implementing Culturally Relevant Pedagogy to Navigate Critical Conversations
**Strands:** Youth Development  
**Location:** Pebble Beach  
This session will give participants the opportunity to explore the key components of Culturally Relevant Pedagogy and Critical Conversations. This session will highlight the benefits of intentionally implementing Culturally Relevant Pedagogy in an educational setting while providing participants with resources to begin refining school curriculum and programs to be more culturally relevant.

**Presenter:** Tristan Hunter, Schoolin’ Life, LLC  
**Co-Presenter:** Kenya Grant, Schoolin’ Life, LLC

#### Possible Futures: Engaging Youth in CCR
**Strands:** Closing Gaps, College & Career Readiness, Public/Private Partnerships, Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics [STEM]  
**Location:** Colony B  
In this session, participants will be able to learn how to engage youth in career and college readiness content with ease! Additionally, participants will leave with access to a free college and career readiness curriculum, strategies, and best practices.

**Presenter:** Pam Hyatt, The Dream Center of Randolph County  
**Co-Presenter:** Sheneika Simmons, NC Center for Afterschool Programs

#### Real Challenge – Real Solutions!
**Strand:** Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics [STEM]  
**Location:** Colony A  
Robotics teams provide students with unique opportunities to work side by side with engineering mentors, classroom teachers and business leaders as they tackle yearly game challenges. Robots are the ‘hook’ to help engage students in a way that makes their classroom learning relevant to their future education and career choices. Come play with three different levels of robotic systems (elementary, middle and high school) and learn how you can create an after-school opportunity that can fuel a new level of excitement into STEM learning. By providing a meaningful project that spans engineering, coding, research, marketing, entrepreneurship, finances, teamwork and more, students gain in self-confidence and discover new avenues for growth and exploration. This session will provide you with the information needed to start a team in your school or community. You will also learn how to create a win-win and meaningful partnership with community colleges and businesses in your area.

**Presenter:** Marie Hopper, FIRST North Carolina  
**Co-Presenter:** Julia Wagner, FIRST North Carolina
In-Person Workshop Block A
Thursday, April 21, 2022 - 9:45 am - 10:45 am

S+E+L = Supporting Every Learning with Magic & Meaning

**Strands:** Arts & Literacy, Social & Emotional Learning

**Location:** Grandover West

This workshop demystifies S.E.L. by engaging participants in magical, meaningful, and disguised S.E.L. & literacy activities they can easily transfer to their work with students, particularly during this critical time. The instructional strategies shared are designed for students to think critically, act empathically, and communicate ideas and feelings confidently.

**Presenter:** Meredith S. Lynn, WRITE BRAiN WORLD

**Co-Presenter:** Sarah Plumitallo, WRITE BRAiN WORLD

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**SEL Beyond Classroom Walls: Integrating SEL Activities in After-School and Summer Programming**

**Strands:** Social & Emotional Learning

**Location:** Tidewater

Current research shows that when SEL lessons are integrated beyond the traditional school classroom into after-school/summer programming, students’ academic skills and classroom behaviors improve and that using SEL early in development are promising approach to improving academic proficiency in different areas like math, reading, and writing. Participants will learn some practical application exercises used at a local after-school program, that energizes their students, teachers, tutors, volunteers from social awareness prospective.

**Presenter:** Theresa Isibor, International Center for Community Development (ICCD)

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**Using Coaching Skills to Support Your Staff and Youth**

**Strand:** Organizational Capacity, Youth Development

**Location:** Augusta B

Coaching may be the latest buzzword, but its principles have been around for a long time and have been thoroughly studied and implemented for powerful impact. In the afterschool world, coaching skills benefit both staff and students. In this session, participants will separate myths from facts when it comes to coaching. They will discover the many benefits of coaching, when to use coaching skills, and how to implement the most foundational coaching skills. This will be an experiential session in which participants will practice coaching skills with one another and will walk away with clear action steps to start effectively using coaching to benefit their programs.

**Presenter:** Katherine Spinney, Katherine Spinney Coaching LLC

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**Supporting Learning**

**This is Afterschool**

Helping kids recover
## WORKSHOP BLOCK B SESSIONS

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<td>Using a Horticultural Therapy Afterschool Program With At-Risk Students Living in a Rural Community to Provide Social and Emotional Development Opportunities and Improve Outcomes in Self-Esteem, Resilience, and Wellness</td>
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### Character Development and SEL in After School Programs
**Strand:** Social & Emotional Learning  
**Location:** Pebble Beach  
Character Development is the process for cultivating the values, attitudes, knowledge and behaviors that prepare youth to thrive in learning, in work and in life. An intentional focus on character development represents an opportunity to develop the behaviors of adults working with young people. A strategic focus on these “adult practices” of empathy, relationship building, emotion management, responsibility and personal development at all levels of an organization will ensure that youth development leaders have the support they need to nurture the potential of all youth. In this session, we will overview the adult practices and the framework for implementing character development successfully in your OST program.

**Presenter:** Kim Keith, YMCA of the Triangle

### Helping Students Find Their Career through After-School Programs
**Strand:** College & Career Readiness  
**Location:** Tidewater  
Participants will learn about free resources available to assist students with identifying their strengths. These resources will provide them with information on how to choose a career path and obtain the education and resources to bring that career to reality.

**Presenter:** Wendy Buck, NC Department of Public Instruction

### How to Be the Supervisor Your Staff Need
**Strand:** Organizational Capacity  
**Location:** Augusta B  
Too many supervisors in the OST field are put into leadership positions without any training or support. As a result, leadership struggles, staff struggles, and ultimately program struggle. This session introduces participants to best practices in after school leadership to guide supervisors toward their own growth and goals. Through a focus on mindset, investment, necessary skills and desire, this session will challenge participants examine their motivations for leadership and encourage them to create a plan to become the leader they strive to be.

**Presenter:** Katherine Spinney, Katherine Spinney Coaching LLC

### Making STREAM Assessable & Exciting for K-5
**Strand:** Arts & Literacy, Public/Private Partnerships, Social & Emotional Learning, Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics [STEM]  
**Location:** Colony B  
In this session, participants will learn about how to plan and implement a weekly STREAM lesson that includes students in K-5th grade together. We will discuss strategies, show examples of lessons, and provide tips on how to make this work in your own program across all elementary grade levels in an effective way. Participants will leave with a monthly example and many other ideas of how to get started.

**Presenter:** Emily Soto, The Dream Center of Randolph County  
**Co-Presenter:** Pam Hyatt, The Dream Center of Randolph County
Merging Travel, Adventure, and STEM+ with the Flying Classroom

**Strands:** Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics (STEM)

**Location:** Grandover East

Join the Flying Classroom team, we will take you on a journey around the world as we host an engaging break-out session that explores STEM+ and project-based learning for students. Together, we will investigate what it means to (re)inspire, (re)engage, and facilitate students’ learning ventures through expeditionary, immersive, and real-world STEM+ experiences. Imagine a dynamic encounter where your students could dissect a cow’s eyeball with the Flying Eye Hospital, merging the disciplines of anatomy, biology, and integrating empathy, all in one expedition. Flying Classroom offers over 70 expeditions students can explore during the program. By engaging in STEM+ through the eyes of the learner, participants will investigate STEM classroom practices, literacy integration, and leave with different implementation strategies.

**Presenter:** Odette Davis, The Flying Classroom  
**Co-Presenter:** Aries Rodriguez, The Flying Classroom

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Project-Based Learning for ELs and ALL!

**Strand:** Arts & Literacy, Closing Gaps, Social & Emotional Learning

**Location:** Grandover West

This highly interactive session explores how to use colorful artwork as disguised literacy prompts for project-based learning experiences that inspire! Participants engage in creative writing games designed to build academic and personal confidence in learners at ALL LEVELS. Attendees leave with strategies for accelerating students’ development of vital skills while increasing literacy, vocabulary development, and elevating self-expression and self-esteem in the process.

**Presenter:** Meredith S. Lynn, WRITE BRAiN WORLD  
**Co-Presenter:** Sarah Plumitallo, WRITE BRAiN WORLD

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Using a Horticultural Therapy Afterschool Program with At-Risk Students Living in a Rural Community to Provide Social and Emotional Development Opportunities and Improve Outcomes in Self-Esteem, Resilience, and Wellness

**Strand:** Social & Emotional Learning, Youth Development

**Location:** Colony A

Horticultural therapy is used approach is to teach the children to grow plants, thus enabling them to make the connection that growing things can help them understand themselves better; is a useful stress management technique; and can result in something that gives them a sense of accomplishment. The learning objectives for the presentation that we hope the participants will learn as a result of attending the presentation are: Define horticultural therapy, understand how horticultural therapy can be used to impact the social emotional learning of children, learn about the nature deficit disorder, the benefits of horticultural therapy, skills and virtues horticultural therapy promotes, and ways horticultural therapy can be used in counseling at-risk students. The participants will do an interactive horticultural therapy activity. Thus, the goal of the presentation is for the participants to learn how horticultural therapy can be a valuable tool used in schools, especially in underserved areas. This is a resource for schools to utilize in meeting their students’ social-emotional needs in a way that will positively affect the students, the school, and the community at large.

**Presenter:** Dr. Antoinette Hollis, South Carolina State University  
**Co-Presenter:** Kayla Wilson, South Carolina State University  
**Co-Presenter:** Di’Andrae Glover, South Carolina State University
### Building Self-Esteem with Journaling, Improv & Rap!
**Strand:** Arts & Literacy, Social & Emotional Learning, Youth Development  
**Location:** Grandover West  
In this unique, lively, interactive session, educators will learn how to inspire students to find and share their voice. Whether it’s through journaling, improv performances, spoken stories, or rap songs, discovering one’s own voice is the KEY TO SELF-ESTEEM in young people. Educators will learn how to identify topics that are relevant and engaging, show students how to express their unique points of view, and provide meaningful opportunities for writing and public presentation.

**Presenter:** Meredith S. Lynn, WRiTE BRAiN WORLD  
**Co-Presenter:** Sarah Plumitallo, WRiTE BRAiN WORLD

### Culturally Responsive Social Emotional Learning (SEL)
**Strands:** Social & Emotional Learning  
**Location:** Colony B  
“Cultural relevance is the plate from which we educate our students--not just one more thing to add to our plate.” –Dr. Nicole Evans, Embracing Equity. The Wings for Kids program strives to be culturally relevant in its work with elementary students in after school programs across the country. The Wings curriculum, organizational culture, professional development, and assessments are rooted in cultural relevance to ultimately support student academic excellence, support student cultural competence, and facilitate critical thinking about the world around us. Join this interactive session and we’ll dive into the foundations of social and emotional learning and where to start with culturally relevant social and emotional learning. Walk away having reflected on the role you play as a youth development professional, actionable steps to make a difference, and resources to continue the work with your students.

**Presenter:** Tristan Evans Richardson, Wings for Kids, Inc.  
**Co-Presenter:** Katie Frazier, Wings for Kids, Inc.

### Improve Students’ Mental, Physical, and Academic Health with The Walking Classroom
**Strand:** Arts & Literacy, Closing Gaps, Social & Emotional Learning  
**Location:** Augusta B  
The Walking Classroom is a national award-winning nonprofit program that provides students and teachers with an innovative way to get exercise without sacrificing instructional time. The method is simple: students take brisk walks (preferably outside) while listening to kid-friendly, curriculum standards-aligned educational podcasts that are 15-18 minutes in length. Detailed lesson plans contain comprehension quizzes for each podcast and feature a character value (integrity, honesty, perseverance, etc.) that is highlighted through discussion questions that bridge podcast content to student experience.

This session will highlight the research-proven physical, mental, and academic benefits of The Walking Classroom. Walking while listening to educational podcasts gets students some desperately needed fresh air and exercise, but it also engages different learning styles and builds the confidence of students who struggle in a traditional classroom. Students love the break from sitting in their seats and return from their walks in better moods and ready to learn even more. This innovative supplement to traditional instruction enables teachers and students to press the “reset button” and clear their heads while filling them with knowledge.

Attendees will get an overview of how The Walking Classroom works and will learn how to create a walking classroom of their own.

**Presenter:** Laura Fenn, The Walking Classroom
Inquiry-based Learning Student Activity Sampler

**Strand:** Closing Gaps, Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics [STEM], Youth Development

**Location:** Grandover East

Using the Inquiry-based Outdoor Learning workshop materials, participants will experience a sample of various student activities they can use with their own students. This workshop will include group discussions, reflection time for how each activity can be used at their own location, and resources and handouts for how to learn more and gain more professional development.

**Presenter:** Michelle Pearce, Environmental Educators of North Carolina

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Introduction to the SACERS-U and the North Carolina Rated License Assessment Project

**Strands:** Public/Private Partnerships

**Location:** Pebble Beach

This session is for those who are interested in North Carolina’s Rated License and how it impacts the care of children 5-12 years of age. It will provide basic information about the assessment process as well as review the School-age Care Environment Rating Scale - Updated (SACERS-U). Different aspects of the scale will be discussed as well as examples of how programs can earn higher scores on different items.

**Presenter:** Tanya Covington, North Carolina Rated License Assessment Project

**Co-Presenter:** LaToya Hedgspeth, North Carolina Rated License Assessment Project

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The Impact of Diversity Equity Inclusion and Belonging on your Organization and Students

**Strand:** Organizational Capacity

**Location:** Tidewater

An organization’s approach to Diversity, Equity, Inclusion, and Belonging have always been indicators of success as a future-forward organization. Out of School Time (OST) organizations are no different. The need for OST providers to ensure students and employees develop strong belongingness certainty supports closing achievement gaps, SEL, and staff retention. This session will cover the four foundational principles and how they apply to OST to support employee and student outcomes.

**Presenter:** Del Ruff, NC Agricultural & Technical State University

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Tips for Planning and Writing an Effective Grant Proposal

**Strand:** Organizational Capacity

**Location:** Colony A

In this session, participants will learn:

- How to use the RFP to organize and guide the proposal development process;
- How to assess organizational capacity to implement the project;
- How to develop a strong needs statement; and
- Tips for writing a comprehensive, cohesive, and compelling proposal.

**Presenter:** Beth Thrift, SERVE Center at UNC Greensboro
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#### Changing Lives Through Tennis & Education
**Strand:** Closing Gaps, College & Career Readiness, Organizational Capacity, Public/Private Partnerships, Social & Emotional Learning, Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics [STEM], Youth Development  
**Location:** Colony A  

The 14 NC National Junior Tennis & Learning Chapters across our great state provide thousands of youth, between the ages of 5-18, with critical skills and opportunities to be active, build character, and be well educated. Over the past 2 years, the Covid-19 pandemic has disrupted youth development - academically, socially, and physically. Participants will walk away from this workshop with an understanding about the benefits of NC NJTL Chapters and how they can get involved in a local chapter as a volunteer, organizer, or to direct youth to local chapters in their areas to enhance and supplement youth in areas of academics and physical activity that has created social and emotional gaps for youth development.

**Presenter:** Kelly Lombardino, NC Tennis Foundation, Inc.  
**Co-Presenter:** Darryl Benbow, NC Tennis Foundation, Inc.

#### Eco-Ed Activities for a Very Popular Planet
**Strands:** Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics [STEM]  
**Location:** Grandover West  

Engage in activities (role-playing simulations and games) that explore some of the fundamentals of human-environment interactions, including carrying capacity and understanding cause-and-effect relationships in nature. Activity themes include land use, renewable and nonrenewable resource use and an introduction to the concepts of sustainability. A variety of activity formats aim for inclusiveness for students with different learning styles.

**Presenter:** Shirley Smith, Population Education

#### I See You: After School for Everyone
**Strand:** Closing Gaps, Organizational Capacity, Social & Emotional Learning, Youth Development  
**Location:** Tidewater  

In this session, participants will meet Aubrey, a student with Autism, Speech Apraxia, and a great big personality! Despite all odds, she graduated from HS and went to college. She will share her story and will be joined by LeFevers, her 8th grade Math teacher/ Milken Educator/ 2018 NCAPOY, who helped her embrace her inner awesomeness! Participants are sure to leave with ready to implement behavior management and instructional strategies as well as a hearty dose of inspiration.

**Presenter:** Meghan LeFevers, Gaston County Schools  
**Co-Presenter:** Aubrey Bridges, Gaston County Schools

#### Moving Forward by Using Strategies to Understand Youth’s Thinking
**Strands:** Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics [STEM]  
**Location:** Colony B  

Ever wonder what’s going on inside the minds of those you teach? During this workshop, afterschool educators will try out a sampling of strategies that will also serve as discussion points for how and why one would use formative assessment in their afterschool programs. Through games, artistic endeavors, and purposeful questioning strategies, we will test-drive strategies used to get a better understanding of what youth are thinking and talk about how to adjust our approach. Using these easy to implement/ready to go strategies in your program can create an atmosphere that sparks curiosity, empowers youth to discuss ideas, informs teaching, and promotes learning. This session will have a STEM focus, but the strategies are transferable across ages.

**Presenter:** Perrin Chick, ACRES Project At MMSA
Supermarket Robots: Exploring the Connection between Local Food Systems and Robotics

**Strand:** Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics (STEM)

**Location:** Pebble Beach

This workshop will explore how to use project-based learning to connect school-aged youth to their own local foods system and robotics through an interactive, hands-on lesson using LEGO Robotics. In this lesson, students, grades 3-5, will take a journey through agriculture in their community and the importance of their role in our world while incorporating a futuristic idea of shopping at a supermarket.

By the end of this workshop, attendees will:

- Describe the local foods systems and navigate sites to help their students explore the top commodities sourced locally in their areas.
- Understand the importance of local foods and how to educate their students about the future of food sustainability by 2050.
- Use the framework to demonstrate the way farmers use technology and robots to harvest and process foods supermarket ready.

**Presenter:** Crystal Starkes, NC Cooperative Extension – Union County 4-H

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“The Rhythms of My Community/Los Ritmos de mi Comunidad”: An Exploration of Authentic Voices and Universal Design

**Strand:** Arts & Literacy

**Location:** Augusta B

Through an exploration of the project “The Rhythms of My Community/Los Ritmos de mi Comunidad,” learn how authentic voices and universal design concepts are combined to create inclusive multi-sensory, multi-cultural, multi-media, multi-disciplinary educational programs. Students learn about the world while also exploring social and emotional learning competencies, including self-awareness, social awareness, and relationship skills.

**Presenter:** Robin McCall, ConMotion – Community in Motion

**Co-Presenter:** Andre Avila, ConMotion – Community in Motion

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Words Matter: Academic Implications in After School

**Strands:** Closing Gaps, Social & Emotional Learning

**Location:** Grandover East

Imagine if words could be weighed. In after school, we must watch what they say and how it is said. Words once spoken can’t be unspoken! Participants will learn how to engage students with their words. Also, participants will learn how the weight of words can impact academic performance. Dr. Maya Angelou imagined a world when words might have weight. Words Matter! Let’s not weigh our children down with negative Words!

**Presenter:** Dr. Ed Bell, EdBell
### WORKSHOP BLOCK E SESSIONS

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### #AfterschoolWorks: Crafting a Winning Afterschool Message
- **Strand:** Closing Gaps, Organizational Capacity
- **Location:** Augusta B

Understanding how to talk about your afterschool or summer learning program is important when advocating for support. This has become even more important as schools have received billions of dollars in federal relief funding to support education, including efforts to support learning recovery. This interactive workshop will discuss what works and what doesn’t when communicating about afterschool, how to tailor your message for key audiences like school districts and policymakers, and how to leverage this information and build support for your program. A special focus on messaging around STEM learning as a key support in learning engagement strategies will be featured.

**Presenter:** Chris Neitzey, Afterschool Alliance

### Connection Complete with PBS NC
- **Strands:** Arts & Literacy, Closing Gaps, Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics [STEM]
- **Location:** Colony B

Connect with PBS NC as we explore ways to make learning novel, engaging, relevant and fun! Participants will have the opportunity to explore resources that are free, standards aligned, and accessible in the classroom and at home.

Focus on At-Home Learning programs ‘Classroom Connection’ and ‘Teacher Time.’

Together we will build connections between standards and interactive learning, to meet the needs of each learner.

**Presenter:** Mallory Mbalia, PBS North Carolina

**Co-Presenter:** Lauren McDowell, PBS North Carolina

### Invisible Sentence: Recognizing, Supporting, and Advocating for Children of Incarcerated and Returning Parents
- **Strands:** Social & Emotional Learning
- **Location:** Colony A

Upon completion of this workshop, participants should be able to:

- Share with others their acquired knowledge of the challenges that children of incarcerated and returning parents face on a daily basis and will be able to apply the strategies and techniques learned in this workshop to create a supportive environment for the children.
- Share with others their acquired increased knowledge of what the needs are of children of incarcerated and returning parents, increased knowledge of what services and programs exist and where the gaps are, and tools to advocate for the children to improve responses, programs, and services.
- Identify ways to collaborate with other professionals to improve the well-being of children of incarcerated and returning parents and will take what they learn back to their own professional settings to explore opportunities to better serve the children.

**Presenter:** Melissa Radcliff, Our Children’s Place of Coastal Horizons

### Plug & Play: Lesson Plans for Career Readiness
- **Strands:** College & Career Readiness, Youth Development
- **Location:** Grandover West

Learn about FREE, easy-to-use career development lesson plans that make teaching career readiness a “plug & play” activity. These are fun and informative, and cover a wide variety of topics. This session will introduce the tool and offer an opportunity to apply what is learned.

**Presenter:** Brandi Bragg, NENC Career Pathways
In-Person Workshop Block E
Friday, April 22, 2022 - 10:30 am - 11:30 am

STEM Solutions For All
**Strands:** Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics (STEM)
**Location:** Grandover East
Hands-On STEM solutions. Stations of STEM in Afterschool and summer camps. Easy use of curriculum along with tools they can use near after year. Participants will be able to use tools during the sessions. How taking the step to bring these programs to Afterschool gives STEM access to all kids.

**Presenter:** Susan Wells, TechTerra Education
**Co-Presenter:** Donna Gates, TechTerra Education

The Social Discipline Window
**Strand:** Closing Gaps, Organizational Capacity, Social & Emotional Learning, Youth Development
**Location:** Pebble Beach
The Social Discipline Window is a concept with broad application in many settings. It describes four basic approaches to maintaining social norms and behavioral boundaries. The four are represented as different combinations of high or low control and high or low support. The restorative domain combines both high control and high support and is characterized by doing things WITH people, rather than To them or FOR them.

The Social Discipline Window also defines restorative practices as a leadership model for parents in families, teachers in classrooms, administrators and managers in organizations, police and social workers in communities and judges and officials in government. This powerful concept will force attendees to examine how they, if in a position of authority/leadership, show up and exert that authority or not.

**Presenter:** Eric Rainey, North Carolina Department of Public Instruction

Tutoring—A Key to Unlocking Educational Equity
**Strand:** Closing Gaps
**Location:** Tidewater
Structured, intensive tutoring programs can spell the difference between success and constant failure for ALL children. Afterschool and summer programs have the potential to unlock new doors of educational equity—if they’re done right! For five years, Charlotte Community Services Association has embedded the SMART Tutoring Program in its 21st Century program. This workshop will highlight lessons learned about staff selection, training, curriculum, technology vs. books, teacher-student ratio, student incentives and expected results. It also will address the needs of Spanish-speaking students.

**Presenter:** Patsy Burkins, Charlotte Community Services Association
**Co-Presenter:** Brenda Santiago, Charlotte Community Services Association
### Virtual Workshop Sessions

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**Building Student Resilience with Trauma-Informed Programs**

**Strand:** Social & Emotional Learning  
In this session, participants will learn about the research behind childhood trauma and adverse childhood experiences (ACEs) and the impact on brain development, learning and behavior. The session will include specific resilience-building strategies for program staff and students in the areas of staff wellness, relationship-building, safe and structured environments, and social and emotional learning to help programs create a trauma-informed environment for all kids.

**Presenter:** Elizabeth DeKonty, Public School Forum of North Carolina  
**Co-Presenter:** Eulanda Thorne, Public School Forum of North Carolina

**Effective Communication Strategies for OST Programs**

**Strand:** Organizational Capacity  
Whether you are an OST practitioner or a summer camp counselor, you should be equipped with effective strategies for communicating with parents and partners. In this session participants will dissect the “Communication Process” to determine likely places barriers occur, understand the importance of a “First Impression” and understand more fully the role your own communication style plays in effective communication.

**Presenter:** Tyneisha Gibbs, NJSACC: The Statewide Network for NJ’s Afterschool Communities

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**Helping Students find their Career through After-School Programs**

**Strand:** College & Career Readiness  
Participants will learn about free resources available to assist students with identifying their strengths. These resources will provide them with information on how to choose a career path and obtain the education and resources to bring that career to reality.

**Presenter:** Wendy Buck, NC Department of Public Instruction
Virtual Workshop Sessions

How Stabilization Grants are Impacting Child Care Providers in North Carolina

**Strand:** Organizational Capacity

High-quality early care and learning is critical to families who need child care, employers who need workers, and most importantly, it helps children get the healthy start they need to succeed in school and beyond. With the onset of COVID-19 in March 2020, the country a front row seat to just how essential child care was to the infrastructure of the nation. While many gained a newfound appreciation for child care programs when COVID-19 began, this gratitude was in stark contrast to the devastation happening within child care programs across the country. Declining enrollment numbers coinciding with a workforce that was shrinking—both of which came during a time of increased prices for nearly everything. Enter the 2021 American Rescue Plan Act, which is funding stabilization grants in an effort to help the child care sector recover and advance by helping providers cover expenses incurred due to COVID-19. Join representatives from the North Carolina Division of Child Development and Early Education discuss how the stabilization grants are changing child care programs statewide.

**Presenter:** Arlette Lambert, North Carolina Division of Child Development and Early Education

**Co-Presenter:** Ketica Cleveland, North Carolina Division of Child Development and Early Education

How to Be an Effective Advocate

**Strand:** Organizational Capacity

This virtual session will provide an introduction to advocacy and how to develop an effective advocacy strategy. Participants will come away with specific tips and tools to help them become stronger, more confident advocates.

**Presenter:** Lauren Fox, Public School Forum of North Carolina

How to Foster Intrinsic Motivation in an Extrinsic Society

**Strands:** Social & Emotional Learning

Is your after-school program climate and culture dependent upon extrinsic rewards? Providing opportunities for students to be intrinsically motivated is critical to a child’s moral development and your after-school’s program character journey. In this session, we will explore how we can help your students do the right thing because it is the right thing to do. Resources for teachers and parents to help foster student’s self-motivation will be shared.

**Presenter:** Justyn Burgess, NC Department of Public Instruction

How to Help Your Youth Become Leaders, Creators and Entrepreneurs

**Strand:** Closing Gaps, College & Career Readiness, Social & Emotional Learning, Youth Development

Join the 220 Team as Matthew Moheban, Co-Founder of 220, leads an engaging and practical session on how to help every youth:

- Dream bigger about their future and carve their unique path
- Work backwards to reverse engineer habits and goals aligned to that dream
- Attack their goals and reflect on their progress
- Build new skills that align with their compelling future
- Establish a lifelong process for learning and growth

And you’ll walk away with strategies and free tools you can start using right away.

**Presenter:** Matthew Moheban, 220 Leadership

**Co-Presenter:** Joseph Moheban, 220 Leadership

Invisible Sentence: Recognizing, Supporting, and Advocating for Children of Incarcerated and Returning Parents

**Strands:** Social & Emotional Learning

Upon completion of this workshop, participants should be able to:

- Share with others their acquired knowledge of the challenges that children of incarcerated and returning parents face on a daily basis and will be able to apply the strategies and techniques learned in this workshop to create a supportive environment for the children.
- Share with others their acquired increased knowledge of what the needs are of children of incarcerated and returning parents, increased knowledge of what services and programs exist and where the gaps are, and tools to advocate for the children to improve responses, programs, and services.
- Identify ways to collaborate with other professionals to improve the well-being of children of incarcerated and returning parents and will take what they learn back to their own professional settings to explore opportunities to better serve the children.

**Presenter:** Melissa Radcliff, Our Children’s Place of Coastal Horizons
Moving Forward by Using Strategies to Understand Youth’s Thinking

**Strands:** Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics (STEM)

Ever wonder what’s going on inside the minds of those you teach? During this workshop, afterschool educators will try out a sampling of strategies that will also serve as discussion points for how and why one would use formative assessment in their afterschool programs. Through games, artistic endeavors, and purposeful questioning strategies, we will test-drive strategies used to get a better understanding of what youth are thinking and talk about how to adjust our approach. Using these easy to implement/ready to go strategies in your program can create an atmosphere that sparks curiosity, empowers youth to discuss ideas, informs teaching, and promotes learning. This session will have a STEM focus, but the strategies are transferable across ages.

**Presenter:** Perrin Chick, ACRES Project At MMSA

Nature-Based Mindfulness: 4 Simple Activities and Resources

**Strand:** Arts & Literacy, Social & Emotional Learning

Attendees will learn:

- At least 2 breathing exercise (“Me Moment”) to use when they’re feeling stressed
- At least 2 nature-themed art/literacy activities that encourage gratitude and community-building
- How to access Healthier Generation resources for staff wellness and family engagement

**Presenter:** Daniel Hatcher, Alliance for a Healthier Generation  
**Co-Presenter:** Michelle Owens, Alliance for a Healthier Generation

Possible Futures: Engaging Youth in CCR

**Strands:** Closing Gaps, College & Career Readiness, Public/Private Partnerships, Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics (STEM)

In this session, participants will be able to learn how to engage youth in career and college readiness content with ease! Additionally, participants will leave with access to a free college and career readiness curriculum, strategies, and best practices.

**Presenter:** Pam Hyatt, The Dream Center of Randolph County  
**Co-Presenter:** Sheneika Simmons, NC Center for Afterschool Programs

STEM Journeys: Supporting Youth in STEM Career Pathways

**Strand:** Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics (STEM)

Exploration of STEM (science, technology, engineering, and mathematics) careers and career pathways is a key strategy to encourage youth’s participation in STEM opportunities and identification with STEM, especially youth who have been systemically underrepresented in STEM. This workshop will focus on integrating STEM career information and resources into afterschool programming, including high-quality online resources that showcase diverse STEM professionals and STEM careers and guidance for connecting to STEM professionals locally. Participants will also learn about an activity designed to help youth see a variety of interesting (and sometimes surprising) career paths STEM professionals have experienced.

**Presenter:** Brenda Britsch, National Girls Collaborative  
**Co-Presenter:** Marisa Garcia, National Girls Collaborative

“The Rhythms of My Community/Los Ritmos de mi Communidad”: An Exploration of Authentic Voices and Universal Design

**Strand:** Arts & Literacy

Through an exploration of the project “The Rhythms of My Community/Los Ritmos de mi Communidad”, learn how authentic voices and universal design concepts are combined to create inclusive multi-sensory, multi-cultural, multi-media, multi-disciplinary educational programs. Students learn about the world while also exploring social and emotional learning competencies, including self-awareness, social awareness, and relationship skills.

**Presenter:** Robin McCall, ConMotion – Community in Motion  
**Co-Presenter:** Andre Avila, ConMotion – Community in Motion

The Social Discipline Window

**Strand:** Closing Gaps, Organizational Capacity, Social & Emotional Learning, Youth Development

The Social Discipline Window is a concept with broad application in many settings. It describes four basic approaches to maintaining social norms and behavioral boundaries. The four are represented as different combinations of high or low control and high or low support. The restorative domain combines both high control and high support and is characterized by doing things WITH people, rather than To them or FOR them.

The Social Discipline Window also defines restorative practices as a leadership model for parents in families, teachers in classrooms,
administrators and managers in organizations, police and social workers in communities and judges and officials in government. This powerful concept will force attendees to examine how they, if in a position of authority/leadership, show up and exert that authority or not.

**Presenter:** Eric Rainey, North Carolina Department of Public Instruction

**Triple Threat Design Camp**

**Strands:** Organizational Capacity, Youth Development

Have you ever had a great idea that turned into a dud in front of the kids? Had no plan or materials but created the most amazing activity seemingly out of thin air? Does your staff have the autonomy to implement their solution-oriented ideas? Great programs follow simple principles that lead to student and staff engagement. Bring one idea for a course, event, or activity and workshop it into a real Triple Threat (Highly-Engaging, Student-Led, & Brain-Friendly)! Participants will learn alongside the Mizzen by Mott Team to bring an idea to life through best practices of student and staff engagement. Attendees will not only take their idea they bring and walk away with a plan but will also have the skills and knowledge of continuing to enhance or create their programs back in their communities.

**Presenter:** Kristin Stayer, Mizzen By Mott

**Why Your Students’ Goals Should Be “Unrealistic”**

**Strand:** Closing Gaps, College & Career Readiness, Social & Emotional Learning, Youth Development

When was the last time you set a goal you knew you probably wouldn’t accomplish? Most of us hardly, if ever, set goals this way. Even some teachers and personal development coaches say you should set “realistic” goals. At 220, we teach youth to do the opposite. Why?

- Because “Unrealistic” Goals create your 220 (second-to-none) Life.
- Because “Unrealistic” Goals are harder, but more rewarding.
- Because failing at an “Unrealistic” Goal will land you higher than most people’s successes.
- Because you can actually achieve your “Unrealistic” Goals.

The first step is believing your goals are actually possible. Believe it, then put in the hard work and do everything in your power to go make it happen.

So what are we waiting for? Let’s get your students to set unrealistic goals and experience all the benefits that come with them.

Realistic Goals + Realistic Action = Realistic Life

Unrealistic Goals + Unrealistic Action = Unrealistic Life

**Presenter:** Matthew Moheban, 220 Leadership

**Co-Presenter:** Joseph Moheban, 220 Leadership
ENVIRONMENTAL EDUCATORS OF NORTH CAROLINA

Our organization represents a network of outstanding environmental educators, individuals, and organizations who work together to accomplish our core mission: to build connections, provide professional development, and promote excellence in environmental education.

www.eenc.org

FLYING CLASSROOM

Flying Classroom is a PK-12 supplemental curriculum that is based on Captain Irving’s experiences around the globe. It is aligned to national standards while also focusing on college, career, and life skills. Every expedition is designed around creating solutions to real-world STEM+ challenges. We provide individual support with on-demand teaching. We’re all about experimental engineering focused, immersive learning experiences.

www.flyingclassroom.com

NASCAR HALL OF FAME

The NASCAR Hall of Fame is packed with excitement for everyone in your group including classic and present-day cars as well as digital interactive exhibits, hand-on experiences, realistic racing simulators, and fascinating memorabilia from all the legends of NASCAR. The NASCAR Hall of Fame offers multiple formats to make sure your school’s needs are met, including on-site opportunities and virtual alternatives. Our curriculum incorporates SPARK! Full Throttle Discovery racing-themed education with the NASCAR Hall of Fame’s STE(A)M-based educational programs. We have three field trip options for you to choose from.

http://www.nascarhall.com/groups

NC TENNIS FOUNDATION

The North Carolina Tennis Foundation, Inc. is a nonprofit, charitable, 501 (c)3, educational organization headquartered in Greensboro, NC. Organized in 1961 for the purpose of promoting tennis and education, the Foundation awards grants, and scholarships to need-based organizations, individuals, and programs to enhance the lives of people through tennis and education. At the heart of our programming, funding, and service are the 15 NC National Junior Tennis & Learning (NJTL) Chapters positioned to teach youth between the ages of 5-18 how to play tennis and supplement their educational goals through reading writing, and S.T.E.M. curricula. Funding benefactors include North Carolina high school tennis teams, boys & girls state tennis championships, and adaptive sports organizations. We proudly maintain the North Carolina Tennis Hall of Fame to preserve the rich history of tennis in our state. The Foundation works alongside our sister organization, USTA North Carolina, to endorse practices and programs that reflect diversity, equity, and inclusion to make tennis an accessible and inclusive sport for everyone.

www.nctennisfoundation.com

PBS NORTH CAROLINA

For the past 86 years we’ve educated, entertained and evolved, from black and white screens in living rooms to glowing screens in pockets, from broadcast to everywhere. Now we’re no longer a traditional channel but an innovative multimedia platform, embodying everything you love about PBS and connecting North Carolinians to their communities and the world at large. As your statewide public media network, we harness the energy of the UNC System to spark lifelong curiosity; inform communities in times of crisis; engage with complex local and national issues; offer opportunities to learn, and raise the level of discourse around science, arts and humanities for all North Carolinians. We offer trusted PBS news, programming and resources and we’ll always represent our state’s people, stories and culture. We’re still educating, still entertaining, still evolving, with you. We are PBS North Carolina.

www.pbsnc.org

TECHTERRA EDUCATION

TechTerra Education (TTE) has multiple STEM-related business channels – products, training, and curriculum/content.

- TTE products primarily consist of our turnkey STEM in a Box™ programs for Early Learning through 8th grade. The 34 afterschool and summer STEM programs, designed for schools and youth organizations, include STEM tools, accompanying curriculum, and educator training.
- TTE training is performed globally for educators to understand how to utilize STEM tools in the classroom.
- TTE creates curriculum and educational content for product partners globally.

TTE provides practical expertise in designing and developing standards aligned content to be used with educational tools, software, or apps. TechTerra Education is composed almost entirely of certified educators and strives to be the experts in STEM education and hands-on learning with classroom tools. Our philosophy of “STEM Access for All” drives our work daily.

www.techterraeducation.com

THE WALKING CLASSROOM

Walk, Listen and Learn! The Walking Classroom is a FUN, innovative, easy to implement, research-proven program that enables students to get exercise while building core content knowledge. Students listen to kid-friendly educational podcasts on pre-loaded devices while walking. Podcasts incorporate health messages and character values. Free training and professional development.

www.TheWalkingClassroom.org
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Daniel Bates
School Age/ Early Education Specialist, Region 4 Child Care Resource & Referral

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Board Member Emeritus, Public School Forum of NC

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Director of Strategic Partnerships, Boys & Girls Clubs of the Coastal Plains

Geoff Coltrane
Senior Education Advisor, Office of the Governor

Karen Darby
Early Learning MultiMedia Manager, Southwestern Child Development Commission

Amy Franks
Associate Director of Learning Partnerships, Book Harvest

Tiyana Glenn
Project Associate, Afterschool Alliance

Daniel Hatcher
Director of Community Partnerships, Alliance for a Healthier Generation

Kim Keith
Vice President of Youth Development, YMCA of the Triangle

Kelly Lombardino
Director of Development and Programs, North Carolina Tennis Foundation

Tammorah Mathis, Board Co-Chair
Director of Afterschool Programs, Orange County Schools

Megan Orleans
Program Administrator, North Carolina Department of Public Instruction

Michelle Owens
National Advisor, Alliance for a Healthier Generation

Kim Roseboro
Executive Director, Firm Foundations Youth and Family Outreach

Jane Schirmer
Executive Director, New River YMCA - Eastern Carolina YMCA Association

Dr. Mary Ann Wolf
President & Executive Director, Public School Forum of North Carolina

Sesha Woodard
CEO, Dropping Seeds in Motion
QR Codes for Synergy 2022

Please Scan the QR Code with your cellphone for the appropriate evaluation.

**Note:** You will need to log-in to the Virtual Conference Platform to access all Evaluations with the exception of the 21st Century Community Learning Center Technical Assistance Meeting.

**WORKSHOP BLOCK A**
https://secure.icohere.com/
NCForum-22/ic147700

**WORKSHOP BLOCK B**
https://secure.icohere.com/
NCForum-22/ic148345

**WORKSHOP BLOCK C**
https://secure.icohere.com/
NCForum-22/ic148346

**WORKSHOP BLOCK D**
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