



ALL MEANS ALL
5th Annual Statewide Conference!
*Welcoming Children and Youth of ALL Abilities to
Out-of-School Time Programs!*

October 9, 2009
Curry Student Center, Northeastern University
9:00am - 3:00pm

Preliminary Program

Opening Session:

- Maryellen Coffey, Executive Director, BOSTnet
- Eli Wolff, Manager of Research & Advocacy, Center for the Study of Sport in Society, Northeastern University – recent recipient of the Boston Celtics' *Hero Among Us* Award
- **Keynote:** Charlie Washburn, Executive Director, VSA arts of Massachusetts

Lunch Program:

- Introduction: Josh Kraft, Nicholas President and CEO, Boys & Girls Clubs of Boston
- Opening Remarks: Paul Reville, Ed.M. – Massachusetts Secretary of Education

Panel Discussion

- Paul Reville, Ed.M. – Massachusetts Secretary of Education
- Mitchell Chester, Ph.D. – Massachusetts Commissioner of the Department of Elementary and Secondary Education
- Sherri Killins, Ed.D. – Massachusetts Commissioner of the Department of Early Education and Care
- **Moderator:** Gil Noam, Ph.D., Director of the Program in Education, Afterschool and Resiliency, Harvard University/McLean Hospital

Morning Workshops:

A.) *Making Creativity (Theater & Dance) Universally Accessible to All* – This workshop will provide participants the opportunity to have an open conversation about creating inclusive groups. Participants will also learn through hands-on exploration, different skills, techniques, theater games, and improvisational exercises that are suitable to all learning styles. These techniques will better prepare you to make creativity accessible to all children and youth in your programs. Additionally, these techniques can enhance occupational therapy, reading, English and other curriculum.

Presenter: Donna Folan – Artistic Director and Co-Creator of Access to Theatre and Artistic Director of Until Tomorrow Productions

B.) *Engaging Literacy Activities: Fun, Hands-On and Inclusive!* – Literacy curriculum, appropriate for afterschool and out-of-school time, can be fun, engaging, and promote positive behavior. Participants will learn how to conduct interactive group read alouds. Participants will also explore how to make reading curriculum and reading spaces inclusive. This workshop promises to be hands-on with many concrete strategies for a variety of learning environments.

Presenters: Rachel Hess & Sarah Farbo – ReadBoston

C.) *Bringing the School to the Community* – Meeting the needs of diverse learners requires well-designed facilities that are part of established communities. This workshop explores how an afterschool program, a vocational school, a housing authority and an architectural firm leveraged state funding and private donations to build a new learning center for at-risk children, while bringing the whole community in on the process.

Presenters: Gene Capoccia, Leominster Housing Authority; Gina Wirnonen, Allencrest Learning Center; and David Eisen, Abacus Architects + Planners

D.) *How to Create and Inclusive Environment: Practical Tips for Youth Work Professionals* – This workshop offers youth workers' and afterschool educators practical tips on enhancing the ability of organizations and programs to be more inclusive of youth with disabilities. Participants will learn about the benefits of inclusion, inclusive etiquette and language, and apply inclusive principles to their programs through the completion of an "inclusion checklist."

Presenters: Kaela Vronsky and Melanie Marzolf – Partners for Youth with Disabilities (PYD)

E.) *Asperger Syndrome: A View from Within* – This workshop is designed for all teachers, staff, and professionals who teach children with Asperger's

Syndrome and related disorders. The seminar will focus on understanding the academic, social and behavioral needs of students with Asperger Syndrome within the school setting by having the participants “feel” what it is like to have AS. It will include specific interventions for students and will include the best proactive systemic and individualized strategies. Interventions given are easy and free and can be applied in many settings.

Presenter: Jean Stern, Director of Children’s Services, Asperger’s Association of New England

F.) *Creating a Climate of Safety for All Youth and Staff* – Many youth programs struggle to have adequate policies, procedures and protocols that are consistently applied by staff and appropriate to the needs of their programs. In this workshop participants will review materials prepared by BE SAFE on areas to consider for policies/procedures and self assess individual program needs in small groups. They will also explore a few of the more complex areas (e.g. youth and substance use; 51A filing) and brainstorm new approaches with fellow attendees.

Presenters: Andi Genser, Manager, BE SAFE

G.) *Youth Development and Mental Health: Beyond Disorder, Into Wellness* – This workshop provides out-of-school time educators and youth workers with a culturally competent lens for thinking about mental health and wellness from a youth development perspective. Participants will obtain basic understanding of some mental health disorders, with specific focus on depression, anxiety disorders and post-traumatic stress disorder.

Presenters: Laurie Jo Wallace and Mo Barbosa – The Best Initiative, Health Resources in Action

H.) *KIDS Afterschool Workshop* – Come and learn about KIDS @fterschool (Kids Investigating, Discovering and Exploring), a free full-year curriculum that offers fun science, engineering, culture, art, math, and literacy activities for 7-12 year-olds. Created by the Boston Children’s Museum from 30 years of enrichment activities developed for afterschool professionals, it offers over 165 activities and tips for leading discussions and engaging students in fun and meaningful learning.

Presenter: Cora Carey – Afterschool Project Manager, Boston Children’s Museum

Afternoon Workshops:

I.) *SPA Works . . . Do You? – A Work Experience Program that Works* – A successful work experience for young adults emphasizes key traits for success on the job and creates an opportunity for students to build confidence in learning through workplace success. Key topics covered will include: job program expectations, documentation (including samples), building strong community partnerships, and connecting the out of school

work program with the academic curriculum through collaboration with school staff.

Presenter: Laura Malmstrom, School Councilor, Sarah Pyle Academy

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N.) *Families Creating Together: A Community-Based Accessible Arts*

Program – *Families Creating Together* is a community-based expressive arts program started by Spontaneous Celebrations and Citylife in 2008. The program provides a welcome and inclusive environment for children and youth with disabilities, their siblings and parents/caregivers. All workshops are taught in English, Spanish and American Sign Language. This media presentation and discussion highlights the philosophy behind the program and some of our preliminary findings from its first year evaluation.

Presenters: Ed Pazzanese, Accessibility Coordinator, Spontaneous Celebrations

This conference is made possible through BOSTnet's ongoing partnership with The Center for the Study of Sport in Society, Northeastern University

Join *Build the Out-of-School Network* and become a member of a professional association of OST educators and youth workers in Massachusetts!

Building skilled staff, strong programs and healthy youth!

