

# Program Quality News

From the David P. Weikart Center for Youth Program Quality

Program Quality News connects education and human service leaders with research, case studies, tools and training to improve the quality of youth programs.

## Feature

### **Weikart and Forum Executives Among Most Influential People in Afterschool**

Who stands out as leaders in the afterschool field? The National AfterSchool Association (NAA) has just announced the nation's top 25 influential leaders.

Among them: Charles Smith Ph.D., executive director at the Weikart Center, and Karen Pittman, CEO of the Forum for Youth Investment.

Read on about the NAA awards, and for more thoughts from both Smith and Pittman regarding the afterschool field.

[Read more >>](#)



### **Youth Driven Spaces in Youth Today**

The Weikart Center's great work with the Neutral Zone in Ann Arbor, Mich., on the Youth Driven Spaces project was featured in a recent Youth Today article. The story is about youth voice in the operation of youth programs. Weikart's Ravi Ramaswamy is quoted about what it takes to make this kind of work, well, work.

**YOUTH** today

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*\*Subscription required*

### **How Do We Get Youth Ready?**

When three leading thinkers in the youth field recently sat together to discuss youth readiness, the 200-plus people who listened by phone Tweeted more questions than time allowed to answer. So a promise went out: We'll get back to you on that.

Since then, Karen Pittman, CEO of the Forum for Youth Investment, and Sean Slade, director of Whole Child Programs at ASCD, have pondered those questions. They include: Are there tools to measure life skills? Are we asking too much from teachers in instilling these skills? How can government polices help the drive toward readiness?

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## Reports and Guides

### **Forum 2013 Annual Report: The Quest for Readiness**

*The Quest for Readiness*, the Forum for Youth Investment's 2013 Annual Report, brings you stories from around the country about community and state leaders working to strengthen partnerships, practices and policies - all to improve the odds for youth. Read about leaders building a children and youth master plan in Alexandria, Va.; using new data to spark public conversations about youth issues in Indianola, Miss.; improving afterschool instruction in Palm Beach County, Fla.; creating legislation to let communities use federal dollars more effectively to help young people; and more.



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## Calendar of Events

### **Youth Work Management Training of Trainers**

This Training of Trainers (TOT) is targeted at managers and site leaders who wish to support their sites throughout the quality improvement cycle. Graduates of the Management TOT can facilitate the Planning with Data and Quality Coaching workshops, as well as provide comprehensive logistical and professional development support to staff who are involved in the process.



The course consists of three weeks of distance learning, two days of live training and one week of distance follow-up.

**Where & When: Seattle, Wash., Nov 13-14**

[Register now>>](#)

### **Youth Work Methods Training of Trainers**

Want to learn how to train your afterschool staff to increase the quality of their work? The Weikart Center's Youth Work Methods Training of Trainers (TOT) course teaches staff how to deliver the Youth Work Methods courses, which empower direct staff with tools to increase the quality of their instruction, which can lead to higher youth engagement.

The course consists of four weeks of distance learning, three days of live training, and one week of distance follow-up.

**Where & When: Oakland, Calif., Oct. 27-29; Seattle, Wash., Dec. 10-12**

[Register now for Oakland>>](#)

[Register now for Seattle>>](#)



## Ready Youth Cohort Opportunity Informational Webinar

The Forum is now recruiting up to 20 communities to take part in a Ready Youth Learning Cohort during the 2014-15 school year. These communities utilize the Gallup Student Poll data, which measures the hope, engagement and well-being of several hundred thousand young people each year.

As part of the cohort, participating communities will receive the Poll data sorted by zip code,



race/ethnicity and other demographics. Communities will also receive planning and technical assistance supports including monthly webinars and/or cohort calls; guidance on data analysis and comparisons; sample agendas and presentation materials for community conversations; and up to five hours of individual coaching calls. As schedules and funds allow, select communities will also receive site visits and/or on-site facilitation support.

**Where & When: Online, Aug. 19 at 2p.m. EDT**

[Learn more>>](#)

[Register now>>](#)

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The Forum for Youth Investment is the proud parent company of The Ready by 21 National Partnership, the David P. Weikart Center for Youth Program Quality, the Children's Cabinet Network and SparkAction.org.



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