

Program Quality News

From the David P. Weikart Center for Youth Program Quality

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

"YPQI is a Giant Hug for Youth Workers"

"You walk into a new youth program or a new space that serves youth and you kind of walk in alone... What do you do with these kids? You know that they want to be engaged, they want to be a part of something and as a facilitator, there's a lot of pressure on you to help them reach that goal."

Bobby's Story, a video published by the Greater Victoria Youth Program Quality Initiative (YPQI), shares how YPQI helps support youth workers in Victoria, British Columbia, Canada.

[Watch Bobby's Story - How YPQI Helps Youth Workers Like Me.](#)

National Afterschool Association Names the Weikart Center for Youth Program Quality One of its Most Influential in Research and Evaluation 2018

We are honored to have been named one of the 2018 Most Influential in Research and Evaluation by the National AfterSchool Association (NAA) for our contributions to research and evaluation on youth and adolescent development.

A decade ago, the Weikart Center was created as a joint venture between the Forum for Youth Investment and the High Scope Educational Research Foundation, known for their groundbreaking research on the lifetime value of investments in quality early childhood education. The goal was to complete the work Dave Weikart started, to not only demonstrate that high quality youth programming matters, but to demonstrate that program quality is measurable, malleable, and marketable.

The Weikart Center, under the leadership of former executive director Dr. Charles Smith, has spent the past decade designing, evaluating, and marketing quality improvement systems and continuous improvement interventions. As a result, administrators and funders of afterschool systems, provider networks, and national organizations can have the confidence and capacities they need to create supportive climates in which program managers and staff willingly use data to assess, plan and improve program practice and, more recently, to assess related social and emotional skill growth. Over the span of a decade, our improvement efforts have grown to include over 140 networks across the nation, in Canada, Mexico and the United Kingdom.

In selecting NAA's Most Influential in Research and Evaluation, the National AfterSchool Association sought to honor individuals and organizations whose contributions to research and evaluation on afterschool and youth and adolescent development result in stronger practices, higher-quality programs and increased positive outcomes for children and youth. Honorees were profiled in the Summer 2018 issue of NAA's AfterSchool Today magazine.

[Review the magazine.](#)

Celebrate Summer Learning

Summer is here! Celebrate [National Summer Learning Day](#), with the National Summer Learning Association (NSLA), to elevate the importance of keeping kids learning, safe and healthy every summer to help them return to school in the fall ready to succeed. On July 12, the country will unite in advocacy efforts and celebrations hosted by hundreds of partner organizations from libraries to parks and recreation centers and civic and non-profit groups.

[Find an event near you and access summer learning resources here.](#)

Ready by 21 National Meeting Featured Session Videos

The featured session videos and workshop materials for the 2018 Ready by 21 National Meeting are now available online. This year's featured sessions were delivered by Karen Pittman, CEO & President of the Forum for Youth Investment; Ruby Nell Sales, Founder & Director of the SpiritHouse Project; Keith Hefner, Executive Director of Youth Communication; Stephanie Jones, Professor of Education at the Harvard Graduate School of Education; and Raquel Hatter, Ed. D., Deputy Director of Human Services for the Kresge Foundation.

[Watch featured presentations from the 2018 Ready by 21 National Meeting here.](#)

Events

2018 Bridge Conference: Elevate Youth Voice

[Registration is open](#) for the 2018 Bridge Conference. The conference will take place October 29-30 at the Hyatt Regency Lake Washington in Renton, Wash. This year's theme, Elevate Youth Voice, will explore how we can authentically embed practices and strengthen community, state, and national systems that drive equity and support young people in affecting change.

Capacity Building

Are you a manager or site leader who wants to support your program sites through the Quality Improvement Cycle? Are you interested in building your capacity to offer professional development opportunities to your program staff?

Upcoming Training of Trainers (TOT):

Youth Work Methods:

- Ann Arbor, Mich. - September 19-21, 2018 - [Register here](#). For more information, view the [flyer](#).

Youth Work Management:

- Ann Arbor, Mich. - October 2-3, 2018 - [Register here](#). For more information, view the [flyer](#).

If you are interested in attending a capacity building training, [fill out this form](#) so we can contact you when opportunities are available.

[Click here for more information on capacity building trainings.](#)

Job Opportunities

Project RISE

Instructional Coach

Nova Southeastern University's Project RISE is hiring a part-time Instructional Coach to support youth development providers in Miami-Dade County in providing high quality literacy, fitness and youth development activities. Preferred experience includes: 1) classroom teaching experience, especially in literacy instruction and 2) experience with the Weikart Center's Program Quality Assessment (PQA) tools. For more information, please send a cover letter and resume to Diana Lores at dlores@nova.edu.

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