

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.

News from Washington State: The Sparkwind Movement

"Quality out-of-school programming is really our best chance at leveling the playing field for young people across the entire state," shares James Lovell of School's Out Washington [in this video on their new initiative](#). The Sparkwind Movement aims to provide all young people with equitable access to high-quality expanded learning opportunities.

Share Your Story at the 6th Annual Ready by 21 National Meeting in Austin, Texas

The Forum for Youth Investment will be hosting their 6th Annual National Meeting on March 29-31, 2017 in Austin, Texas. Experts from across the country will come together to share best practices for improving the lives of young people and increasing equity in education. [Share your story by submitting a workshop proposal](#) by Friday, November 11.



Best Practices for Building Empathy

Young people need abilities to see things from others' perspectives, to suspend judgment, actively listen and recognize how different values, life opportunities and obstacles have shaped others. [Empathy](#), is one of the domains of social and emotional learning, identified by the [SEL Challenge](#). [Read more about building empathy](#) in youth programming from SEL Challenge partner, [Wyman](#).

Interested in learning more? [Download](#) *Preparing Youth to Thrive: Promising Practices for Social & Emotional Learning* or [order your copy today!](#)

Neutral Zone, DTE Energy Foundation Expand 'Youth Driven Spaces' Program In Detroit

More than 150 Detroit-area youth and 40 adult mentors from ten organizations will participate in an intensive leadership training and coaching program as part of an investment from the DTE Energy

Foundation to expand The Neutral Zone's [Youth Driven Spaces](#) model in Detroit, Mich. The Youth Driven Space model, as developed by the Weikart Center and [The Neutral Zone](#) in Ann Arbor, Mich., can have powerful impacts on youth, staff and organizations. By transforming existing youth programs into youth driven spaces, youth members take on facilitation of meetings and activities, participate on youth advisory councils and through leadership opportunities can become more engaged.

[Read more about the project here.](#)

Learning in Action: Problem Solving

Go inside the production room with young alum from SEL Challenge partner, [The Possibility Project](#), a New York City program that uses performing arts and community action to help teens build relationships across differences, resolve conflicts without violence and lead. [This chat on problem solving](#) is the most recent installment in our "Learning in Action" video chat series on the domains of social and emotional learning.

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