

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

Q&A with our Executive Director!

Get to know the Weikart Center's founder and executive director a little better through this interview with American Educational Research Association. Dr. Charles Smith discusses research-practice partnerships, the impact of improvement systems like the YPQI and diverse learning communities in OST.



Read the full [interview](#) with [American Educational Research Association](#)

Improving Quality with Denver Afterschool Alliance



Improving programs, increasing qualified staff and serving more kids are just a few things the Denver Afterschool Alliance are hard at work on. Together, the City and County of Denver, Denver Public Schools, youth-serving organizations, funding partners and policy makers continue to raise the bar for the afterschool field as they push toward improved outcomes for Denver's youth.

Get an in-depth look at system building and the role of the intermediary in this short [video](#) (5:37).

How to Build Safe Spaces: Ground Rules from the Social and Emotional Learning Challenge

Providing "safe space" is critical for after-school programs in helping young people thrive. Most providers probably think they do that. But it can be difficult to understand specifically what staff can do to create a space that is conducive to social and emotional development.



[Read more](#) about the Weikart Center's efforts to define and create safe spaces.

Building Peace: Tracking Peace Points through a Web App

How many actions do youth take to create a peaceful campus? Now there's an app for that.

PEACEQ, a web app, is being used to track youth's peaceful actions, praise for others and connections with others. Created by AHA! In Santa Barbara, Calif., the PEACEQ app is a part of the larger Peace Builder training for youth to promote more peaceful and inclusive campuses. The results of the training showed a significant increase in joy, positive attitude, ability to interrupt bullying behavior and a sense of belonging.

[Read more](#) about this exciting experiment in social and emotional learning.

Opportunities

Call for Proposals: Ready by 21 National Meeting Workshops

Every year the National Meeting brings together leaders from all over the country dedicated to getting all young people ready for college, work and life. The fifth annual Ready by 21 National Meeting will be in Baltimore, March 29-31.

At the core of the Ready by 21 National Meeting are the workshops that educate and inspire the hundreds of leaders in attendance to do the ground work in ensuring that all young people are ready to succeed. Interested in presenting a workshop? [Learn more](#) about what we are looking for, and submit your proposal by Nov. 6.



Calendar

Upcoming Youth Work Methods and Management TOTs in Seattle, Wash.

Youth Work Management TOT Nov. 19-20. Coursework begins on **Oct. 26**; you must be registered by **Oct. 16** to guarantee that you will receive your materials in time.

Register now>><http://www.cypq.org/YWManagementTOTregistrationseattle2015>

Youth Work Methods TOT Dec. 9-11. Coursework begins on **Nov. 9**; you must be registered by **Oct. 23** to guarantee that you will receive your coursework materials in time.

Register now>><http://www.cypq.org/ywmtotregistrationseattledec2015>

Interested in hosting a Training of Trainers in your own city?

If you think there is local interest, and you'd like to make it happen, contact Jennifer Harris: jennifer@cypq.org. We are looking for hosts for Management and Methods TOTs, February to June 2016.

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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.

