



**APRIL 4<sup>TH</sup> - 5<sup>TH</sup>, 2025**

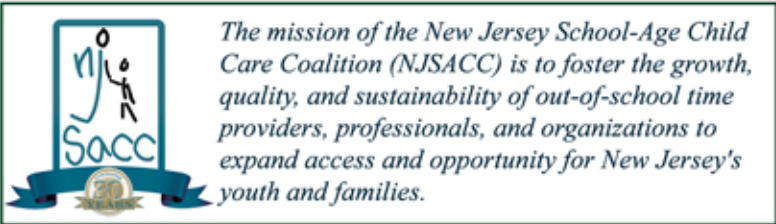

**NJSACC PRESENTS**

**NEW JERSEY'S ANNUAL CONFERENCE ON  
AFTERSCHOOL AND OUT-OF-SCHOOL TIME 2025**

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**NEW JERSEY'S  
AFTERSCHOOL AND  
OUT-OF-SCHOOL TIME (OST)  
PROFESSIONAL NETWORK**

As New Jersey's afterschool and out-of-school time (OST) professional network, NJSACC is proud to serve youth development professionals like you all—individuals who show up every day, bringing their best selves to provide high-quality programs. This year's 2025 Annual Conference has been carefully designed with workshops and presentations tailored to address your expressed needs. We hope you will learn, grow, connect, and find inspiration in the sessions and in the camaraderie of your peers.

As we navigate uncertain times, I encourage you to reflect on the profound impact you have through your programs, successes and stories, inspiring all of us to continue striving for excellence. This quote from musician Pablo Casals demonstrates your unwavering commitment: "A child must know that they are miracles, that since the beginning of the world there hasn't been, and until the end of the world there will not be, another child like them." Your work is truly invaluable, providing a constant, positive presence in the lives of the youth you serve. You lead by example, grounded in values that reflect the very best of human kindness and giving. And in this "heart" work, I also urge you all to remember to care for yourselves as self-care is not a luxury; it is a necessity. Remember, "Self-compassion is simply giving the same kindness to ourselves that we would give to others."

For close to 40 years, NJSACC has had the privilege of serving this dedicated community, and it is an honor to celebrate your dedication to youth and families. We also want to extend our gratitude to our partners, sponsors, conference presenters, and exhibitors. Your collective contributions are instrumental in making this conference a success, and we are deeply appreciative of your support and collaboration. Thank you for your dedication and for the profound impact you make. Have a wonderful conference!

With gratitude and admiration,

*Ebony D. Grace*

Ebony D. Grace, MFT  
Chief Executive Officer  
NJSACC (New Jersey School-Age Child Care Coalition):  
New Jersey's Afterschool and Out-of-School Time (OST) Professional Network

NJSACC - 208 Lenox Avenue - #363 - Westfield, NJ 07090 - Office: (908) 789-0259 - Fax: (908) 789-4237 - njacc.org - sac@njacc.org

Conference at a Glance	
Friday, April 4, 2025	
8:00am - 8:45am	Registration Begins & Continental Breakfast
8:45am - 9:45am	Opening Session and Keynote
10:00am - 11:30am	Session 1
11:35am - 1:20pm	Lunch and Showcase Alley
1:30pm - 3:00pm	Session 2
3:15pm - 4:30pm	Session 3
Saturday, April 5, 2025	
8:00am - 8:30am	Registration Begins & Continental Breakfast
8:30am - 9:30am	Opening Session
9:45am - 11:15am	Session 1
11:30am - 12:15pm	Lunch
12:30pm - 1:45pm	Session 2
2:00pm - 3:15pm	Session 3 General Closing Workshop Session



**Welcome**



## IMPORTANT INFORMATION: CONFERENCE DETAILS YOU SHOULD KNOW

### Land Acknowledgement

With gratitude, NUSACC acknowledges the Lenapehoking (Lenni-Lenape) and the sacrifices of the Lenape people, culture and ancestral homeland in New Jersey, for which we all have been able to thrive. NJ has been the ancestral homeland to the Lenape for over 14,000 years and were forcibly removed and displaced by European colonizers, resulting in a historic diaspora. Some tribal and First nations, officially recognized by the state and federally, maintain communities that still thrive today, located throughout North America, NJ and the greater mid-Atlantic region.

### NJ Workforce Registry Requirements

**You must have a NJ Workforce Registry ID Number in order to register for the conference. The process is simple and will take a few minutes of your time. Visit [www.njccis.com](http://www.njccis.com) to sign up or log in. Once you're registered and logged in, on the Profile page, click *Print Membership Card* to see your ID number. If you have a technical question about the NJ Workforce Registry, please call PCG at 1-877-522-1050 or email them at [njworkforceregistry@pcg.nj.com](mailto:njworkforceregistry@pcg.nj.com). Not required for non-New Jersey residents.**

### Conference Accommodations

NJSACC encourages all people to participate in its workshops, programs and activities.

If you have any dietary restrictions, anticipate needing any type of accommodation while attending the conference or have questions about the physical access provided, please call the NJSACC office at: 908-789-0259 in advance of your participation.

## IMPORTANT INFORMATION: MAKE THE MOST OF YOUR CONFERENCE EXPERIENCE!

- **EACH attendee must have their own NJ Workforce Registry ID Number to register for the conference. ID Number is not required for non-New Jersey residents.**
- **Registration is on a first-come, first-served basis. Workshops fill up quickly so register early! Last day to register is Friday, March 21, 2025.**
- **Invoices, receipts for payment and confirmation of registration will be available online only. If you need assistance registering, contact Jessica Heiberg, Director of Administrative Services at: 908-789-0259.**
- **Group registrations may be done online. The individual registering the group will be responsible for payment and communication to the group members. Each person will need to have their own NJ Workforce Registry ID Number.**
- **Registration fee includes continental breakfast, continuous break stations and a buffet lunch daily. Vegetarian options are always available.**
- **No registration refunds will be given after March 21, 2025. However, substitutions may be made at any time. Sorry, no exceptions will be made, regardless of whether or not you attend.**
- **If not paying online with a credit card, please mail check or PO with printout of online registration confirmation. Payment by mail **MUST** be received by March 21, 2025. Send to NJSACC, 208 Lenox Avenue #363, Westfield, NJ 07090.**
- **All conference participants will receive documentation of completed professional development hours. You must check into and out of your workshop sessions to receive credit. Certificates will be available in your profile on the Eventsquid website/app. Please refer to your confirmation email for Information about the Eventsquid App.**
- **The cut-off date to reserve a hotel room is Friday, March 21, 2025. See Hotel Accommodations on page 21.**
- **Conference questions? Please call NJSACC at: 908-789-0259.**
- **When you complete your registration, you will immediately receive a confirmation via email. If no confirmation is received, the registration is incomplete. Please call the NJSACC Office at: 908-789-0259 immediately so that we can assist you.**

## AT THE CONFERENCE

- **WIFI will be available throughout the conference center.**
- **Please dress in layers as room temperature can fluctuate.**
- **Please be courteous to your presenters and fellow attendees as elevated noise levels can be disruptive during workshop sessions.**
- **Please put cell phones on silent or on vibrate.**
- **Workshops are selected when you register online. You must attend the workshops that are listed on your nametag, or you will be asked to leave the session. You will not receive credit for a workshop you are not registered for!**

While we at NJSACC love children and they are a driving force behind the work we do, children may not attend the conference. The conference is a professional development opportunity for adults, and as such, we respectfully request that you take this time to focus on you. If you do bring children, we must insist that you make other arrangements during conference hours. Children will not be permitted in the lunch area or in the workshops.



Finding the balance to a quality afterschool program is an ongoing process. NJSACC: New Jersey's Afterschool and Out-of-School Time (OST) Professional Network - with support from the C. S. Mott Foundation and the NJ Department of Education - convened a group of afterschool leaders to answer the question, "What does quality look like in an afterschool program?"

The NJ Quality Standards for Afterschool are organized into six categories:

- Administration
- Healthy Behavior: Nutrition and Physical Activity
- Human Relationships
- Safety and Environmental Health
- Indoor and Outdoor Environment
- Programming and Activities

The Standards for each category are numbered and in bold. The Standard Elements are listed under the bold heading with letters (a, b, c, etc.). The standard elements will help you understand how to interpret the standard and what the important things to look for are. On the following page you will see each category along with the icon that represents it. Below each Standard, you will see the workshops listed by number that fall under that category. Some workshops fall into more than one category and may be listed under multiple standards.

For more information on the NJ Quality Standards for Afterschool please visit our website at: [www.njsacc.org/standards](http://www.njsacc.org/standards).



Afterschool and OST professionals are the foundation to high quality youth programming. The OST field contributes to the academic learning and social emotional development of youth guided by a body of knowledge and skills, informed by research and best practice. The National Afterschool Association Core Knowledge and Competencies have been developed to enable afterschool and OST professionals to demonstrate expertise within "a framework that describes the dispositions, knowledge, skills, and competencies individuals need to provide high-quality OST programming and advance equity." NJSACC has adopted and aligned with these competencies for the OST professional New Jersey workforce. Learn more about the NAA CKCs at: [www.naaweb.org](http://www.naaweb.org).

The conference workshops reflect the principles embodied by the Core Knowledge Competencies and the NJ Quality Standards for Afterschool. Below are the ten content areas:

- Child/Youth Growth and Development
- Learning Environments and Curriculum
- Child/Youth Observation and Assessment
- Relationships and Interactions with Children and Youth
- Youth Engagement, Voice, and Choice
- Equity and Inclusion
- Family, School, and Community Relationships
- Safety and Wellness
- Program Planning and Development
- Professional Development and Leadership

Below you will find a listing of the workshops by number according to what categories they fall under in the NJ Quality Standards for Afterschool. Some workshops may be listed more than once if they fall into multiple categories. All conference workshops address school-age appropriate age ranges and multiple age group settings.



### Administration

Friday 1, 2, 4, 5, 7, 10, 11, 24

Saturday 28, 33, 37, 45



### Healthy Behavior

Friday 13, 16, 18

Saturday 36, 42, 46



### Human Relationships

Friday 3, 6, 8, 9, 15, 17, 19, 22, 26

Saturday 30, 34, 44



### Safety and Environmental Health

Friday 5, 26

Saturday 41



### Indoor/Outdoor Environment

Friday 1, 20

Saturday 41



### Programming and Activities

Friday 12, 14, 21, 23, 25, 27

Saturday 29, 31, 32, 35, 38, 39, 40, 43



# OPENING DANIEL SESSION

**HATCHER** Senior Director

Strategic Partnerships | Alliance for a Healthier Generation

Daniel Hatcher is the Senior Director of Strategic Partnerships at the Alliance for a Healthier Generation where he has served since 2008. During his time at Healthier Generation, Daniel developed and led a national youth advisory board and helped create afterschool standards for healthy eating and physical activity. A nationally recognized workshop facilitator, he has spoken at education and youth development conferences in over 35 states and Canada. Previously, Daniel served as Director of Outreach at Youth Service America where he supported a youth advisory council and helped organize Global Youth Service Day.

Daniel has a BA in International Relations and a Master of Public Health, both from Western Kentucky University. In 2022, Daniel was certified in Mental Health First Aid and became a certified Nature and Forest Therapy Guide.



# LUNCH AND SHOWCASE ALLEY

**FRIDAY**  
**11:35AM - 1:20PM**

## Vendors, Prizes & Fun!

Join us in the Alexander Ballroom on Friday for Showcase Alley!

With companies and organizations from all over New Jersey you never know what you might see and what resources you might find.

Make sure that you make time to come and chat with the vendors!

As always, the prize baskets are back and one of them could be yours! All attendees will receive 5 tickets to drop into the bags for a chance to win. Winners will be posted outside of the Alexander Ballroom after Session 2. If you see your name please come to the registration desk to claim your prize before you leave!

Whether you get lunch first or visit the ballroom first is up to you. Either way,

**YOU DON'T WANT TO MISS IT!**



Special Events

Friday





# SPECIAL EVENTS

## SATURDAY CLOSING SESSION

### SATURDAY OPENING SESSION

**The Future Starts with Connection**

Come start Saturday morning with Carlos Santini where he will explore the technology behind relationship building that will set youth up for success!

As CEO of Mizzen Education, Carlos Santini leads and helps grow the Mizzen platform as a key resource in elevating the quality of out-of-school time programs for young people across the United States.

Since 2002, Santini has worked closely with school districts, foundations, corporations, and local, state and national leaders to expand the scope and improve the quality of afterschool programming for young people. He previously served as executive vice president of programs for After-School All-Stars, a national nonprofit offering comprehensive afterschool programs for middle school youth in 19 cities across the country. Prior to that, Santini was the associate executive director for After-School All-Stars, Los Angeles, one of California's most influential expanded learning programs. He has served on the board of the National Afterschool Association and is a featured presenter at national conferences, showcasing best practices in the expanded learning field.

Santini also has had a successful career in marketing and public relations, placing high-tech corporate clients in top-tier media outlets, including Time, Fortune and The Wall Street Journal. Santini immigrated to the U.S. from Honduras at age 7 and credits his experience as an English language learner for paving his path towards a career in education. He attended the University of California, Los Angeles, where he first began his work in youth development with UCLA UniCamp. He is married and has two daughters. His wife, Alejandra, has been an elementary school teacher for over 25 years and is a former nonprofit executive leader.

## DANIEL HATCHER

**A Celebration of Community**

As we close the conference, we'll gather as a community to reflect on the inspiring moments we've shared, connections we've made, and lessons we've learned. Together, we'll set intentions for the year ahead and take a moment to express gratitude for one another and ourselves. Leave feeling recharged, connected, and ready to continue making a positive impact. A few lucky attendees will win a The Walking Classroom WalkKit.

ALLIANCE FOR A  
**HEALTHIER  
GENERATION**



# Friday Session 1

10am - 11:30pm

## 1. NJ Quality Standards for Afterschool Deep Dive Part 1

In this comprehensive, hands-on introduction to the NJ Quality Standards for Afterschool (NJQSA), staff will learn the “why”, “how”, & value of regular self-assessment of their program. Staff will gain a stronger understanding of why self-assessment using a proven tool such as the NJQSA leads to better overall program quality for youth & staff, understand how to competently use the tool, and be able to develop and implement a quality improvement plan for their school age afterschool program.

*Patricia Pugliese, Technical Assistance Specialist, NJSACC, Westfield*

## 2. Professional Development for the Youth Development Professional

Workshops and conferences (like this one!) are great, and there are lots of other types of professional development opportunities you can and should be using with your staff to strengthen their growth and increase your staff retention. This session will challenge you to think more broadly about what professional development can look like for your staff while giving them more ownership over their own growth.

*Katherine Spinney, Educator, Social Worker, Facilitator, KSC, Baltimore, MD*

## 3. Team Building for School Age Staff & Kids

Always valuable, teambuilding with your staff teams and school age kids is now more important than ever! Join us for this hands-on workshop where we'll share and explore lots of fun, interactive, reflective team building activities that strengthen and build bonds, communication, and support. Come dressed to play and have fun!

*Dagmar Wojcik, Quality Team Director, NJSACC, Westfield*

## 4. Using the OST Job Quality Standards to Address Recruitment and Retention Challenges

The recently released OST Job Quality Standards, Usage Guide, and Assessment offer actionable guidelines to enhance job quality, encourage workforce development, and address the OST field's recruitment and retention challenges. Join this session to learn more about the Standards and hear how various audiences—from systems- to program-level personnel—can use these resources to prioritize job quality and create a more stable and effective OST workforce, ultimately improving program access, quality, and outcomes for young people.

*Heidi Ham, Chief Operating Officer, National AfterSchool Association, Hatboro, PA*

**5. All You Need to Know About Licensing**  
Are you thinking about starting an afterschool program? Maybe you already run a program but just have some questions about licensing regulations. Staff from the Office of Licensing are here to help by presenting information from the Manual of Requirements for Child Care Centers and answering all of your licensing questions.

*Inspection Staff, Office of Licensing, NJ Department of Children & Families, Trenton*

## 6. Building Community: Intentional Youth Engagement Strategies to Foster Resilience

More than ever, research shows that human relationships are needed to enhance social skills in children. Using the New Jersey Quality Standards at a Glance, let's learn strategies to enhance resilience during difficult times. Participants will engage in activities that will foster relationships among themselves and the diverse student populations they serve. Come away with practical strategies that anchor to the NJQSA.

*Beverly Ramos, Lead Trainer, Rutgers Southern Regional Child Care Resource & Referral Agency, Woodbury*



### 7. Advancing Your Afterschool Career: How to Reach the Next Level in Our Field

Are you contemplating how to navigate the next steps of your career? Did you know there is a whole field of afterschool professions? In this workshop, participants will learn about the various careers in the field of afterschool and the paths to obtain those positions. Individuals will leave having created a personal professional development plan to submit to their supervisors.

*Tamika Chester, Education Program Development Specialist 2, 21st CCLC Office of Student Support Services, New Jersey Department of Education, Trenton*  
*Tyneisha K. Gibbs, Director of Policy and Youth Advocacy, NJSACC, Westfield*

### 8. Tips, Tricks, Tools – Strategies for Training Adult Staff

This workshop is most appropriate for staff supervisors, trainers, and resource specialists. Although the ultimate goal is to support children and youth in inclusive school-age programs, we achieve it by empowering the adult staff and providers through quality training. Learn tips for gathering information about the adult learner’s interests and needs, tricks for navigating challenging conversations and interactions, and tools to strengthen your presentation and coaching skills. Participants will have the opportunity to reflect on their own experiences within engaging group activities, and will leave with new resources for their training and coaching toolboxes.

*Phillip Collazo, MEd, CYT, Education and Training Specialist, Kids Included Together, Fort Lauderdale, FL*

### 9. Calm the Heat – De-Escalation Techniques That Work

This instructor-led training course discusses proven de-escalation strategies that can minimize difficult conversations. Participants will learn how to recognize the key signs of escalating anger and techniques for redirecting a person who is very angry or verbally aggressive. Also, participants will discuss how to safely end de-escalation when their best efforts are not moving the person into the calm zone. Course Objectives

1. Identify when the customer is entering the “irate zone.”
2. Discover how to manage your emotions and the client’s behaviors during difficult conversations.
3. Learn the key phrases to de-escalate an irate customer.
4. Manage your body language.
5. Know when and how to end de-escalation.

*Elizabeth C. Salerno, Training Coordinator, Rutgers School of Social Work, Institute for Families, New Jersey Child Support Institute, Parsippany*



**10. NJ Quality Standards for Afterschool Deep Dive Part 2**

\* Participants must have taken the NJQSA Deep Dive Part 1 in Session 1 to participate in this session.

Building on the work and information covered in Part 1, participants will continue exploring the Standards. *Patricia Pugliese, Technical Assistance Specialist, NJSACC, Westfield*

**11. Clarifying Team Expectations**

When expectations are not met, frustration often leads to accusations of not caring or even clichéd complaints about generational differences. This session will look more closely about the most common reasons staff do not meet expectations and what you as a supervisor can do about it. We will examine both proactive and reactive strategies and discuss how to know when to keep working through the challenges and when it's time to move on. *Katherine Spinney, Educator, Social Worker, Facilitator, KSC, Baltimore, MD*

**12. Enhancing OST Programming and Operations with Artificial Intelligence**  
Did you know that artificial intelligence (AI) can be an integral part of your OST work? This session introduces participants to ChatGPT, covering its basics and practical applications for programming and administrative tasks. Participants will also explore other AI tools to improve their programs and consider the ethical and legal implications of AI use. No prior AI experience or knowledge is required. *Angelo Monaco, Vice Principal, Linden Public Schools, Linden*

**13. CACFP Funding for Afterschool and Preschool Meals Available!**

The Child and Adult Care Food Program (CACFP) provides reimbursement for well-balanced, nutritious meals served to children enrolled in child day care centers, family day care homes (FDCH), after school programs, emergency shelters, and head start programs. CACFP federal funding is provided from the United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) and paid to Program Operators through an agreement with the New Jersey Department of Agriculture (state agency), based on monthly claims submitted. *Esther Ihekuna, NJDA CACFP Nutrition Program Specialist, New Jersey Department of Agriculture, Trenton*  
*Melissa Waldron, NJDA CACFP Nutrition Program Specialist, New Jersey Department of Agriculture, Trenton*

**14. Fostering Equitable STEM Play in Afterschool Settings**

Children learn best through hands-on play and exploration, especially when it comes to STEM. Research has shown, however, that many adults still more frequently encourage boys to do STEM activities, including using STEM-themed toys, than girls. Other research has shown that boys are provided with more opportunities for building and tinkering play in their childhoods than girls. This may subtly reinforce stereotypes about who can pursue STEM and cause girls to miss out on important playful learning experiences. Afterschool STEM experiences have the potential to strengthen children's conceptual understanding of STEM and spark a lifelong love and interest in STEM for girls (and all youth!). Join this fun and interactive session to learn how you can effectively foster hands-on STEM play in your afterschool settings to counter stereotypes and equitably encourage all children in STEM. *Karen Peterson, CEO, National Girls Collaborative Project, Seattle, WA*  
*Amanda Sullivan, Senior Program Developer, National Girls Collaborative Project, Seattle, WA*

## 15. Leadership Lab: Level Up Your Site Management

Elevate your site management game and have some fun along the way! Dive into an interactive experience packed with engaging activities and lively discussions designed to boost your leadership skills, sharpen your strategic planning, and supercharge your team development. Bring your energy, enthusiasm, and a willingness to learn—and leave with free resources, practical skills, fresh ideas, and a renewed sense of confidence.

*Carlos Santini, CEO, Mizzen Education, Los Angeles, CA*

## 16. Raise Them Up!

In this workshop, we will engage staff in addressing self-regulation in areas of mindfulness, healthy behaviors, tolerance and empathy, and digital/social consciousness. This workshop provides a NEW approach to helping staff develop motivation, positive behavior and resilience. We will provide team building and hands-on activities to implement in your organization as soon as tomorrow!

*Julia Gabor, Mindful Founder, kid-grit, Los Angeles, CA*

*Jeffrey L. Jordan, Mindful Co-Founder, kid-grit, Jersey City*

## 17. Building Inclusive Settings that Support Behavior

\* This workshop is appropriate for all levels of staff. \*

In this virtual session, we'll explore how to use the four guiding principles of inclusion and the Kids Included Together's (KIT) support pyramid to build a program that strengthens inclusion and behavior support.

*Phillip Collazo, MEd, CYT, Education and Training Specialist, Kids Included Together, Fort Lauderdale, FL*

## 18. Stress Management: Rewrite Your Stress Story

Stress can have a major impact on all aspects of your life. This 75-minute interactive session will help you identify daily stress management techniques to implement into your life. In this session, you'll assess your specific stressors and learn how to make stress your Friend—that is, view stress as a positive force rather than a negative one. This positive thinking that usually comes with optimism, is a key part of effective stress management. Demonstrations and group activities will present ways to relieve both mental and physical stress, and you'll walk away with proven stress tips that are easy to use.

*Elizabeth C. Salerno, Training Coordinator, Rutgers School of Social Work, Institute for Families, New Jersey Child Support Institute, Parsippany*



# Friday Session 3

3:15pm - 4:30pm

## 19. From Purpose to Progress:

### Coaching for Goal-Driven Success

This interactive workshop equips OST leaders with the tools to align staff goal setting with their program's mission and vision. Participants will explore how to create SMART goals that foster continuous improvement and enhance coaching conversations. Through hands-on practice, attendees will refine their coaching techniques to ensure a direct connection between conversations and program goals. By the end of the session, participants will leave with actionable strategies to integrate coaching and feedback into their quality improvement process, effectively transforming their program's purpose into measurable progress.

*Megan Gerity, Content Supervisor, Early Childhood, Grow NJ Kids Training Services, Institute for Families, Rutgers School of Social Work, New Brunswick*

## 20. Easy Ways to Take Your Students Outside for Health and Learning

This session will take participants to model simple activities to take your students outdoors. We will explore experiential learning that will support learning in science, ELA, and art as well as help student become mentally and physically healthier.

*Roberta Hunter, Education Program Manager, New Jersey Audubon, Bernardsville*

## 21. Public Speaking: Building Resiliency in Youth

The best way to become a good public speaker is to practice, practice, practice. The best way to become an excellent public speaker is confidence, knowledge, and passion. In this session, you will not only get to participate in confidence-boosting public speaking sessions, but you will also learn how to implement a public speaking program for youth.

*Melissa Bright, Somerset County 4-H Agent, Rutgers Cooperative Extension of Somerset County, Bridgewater*

## 22. From Distraction to Action: Boosting Students' Executive Function Skills

This dynamic workshop is designed for educators and youth development professionals committed to empowering students by enhancing their executive function skills—skills that are critical for focus, organization, and academic success. Participants will explore actionable strategies to create a learning environment that nurtures these abilities, providing practical tools to manage classroom challenges and improve student engagement and behavior. Walk away with proven techniques to help students overcome distractions, improve their organization, and develop the skills needed to succeed both inside and outside the classroom.

*Sonia Toledo, Founder and CEO, Dignity of Children, Inc., New York, NY*

### 23. Fast, Easy Games to Play with Minimal Supplies

Are you operating on a shoestring budget? Are you always looking for easy-to-prep games that can be quickly scaled up or down for multiple age groups or skill levels? Join us to learn minute-to-win-it and other fast and fun games to get kids up and moving, cheering each other on, and taking ideas home to challenge their parents and siblings. You'll leave with a slew of games you can facilitate with minimal, readily available supplies.

*Becca Gutwirth, Program Consultant, Medford*

### 24. Knowing Your People: How to Engage Students, Staff and Stakeholders

This training is designed to equip participants with effective strategies for engaging staff, students, and stakeholders in various work, events, and community initiatives. It will cover essential communication techniques, collaboration methods, and relationship-building practices that foster active involvement, strengthen partnerships, and promote shared goals. Attendees will learn how to create inclusive environments that encourage participation, enhance teamwork, and drive impactful engagement in both academic and organizational settings.

*Dorine Francis, Technical Assistance Specialist, NJSACC, Westfield*  
*Kandece Francis, Quality Support Manager, NJSACC, Westfield*

### 25. Unlocking Potential: Exploring the Holistic Wellness Wheel through Sports-Based Youth Development

Join us for a dynamic, hands-on session where you'll discover how to utilize the latest kid-grit Holistic Wellness Wheel (HWW) to support the development of young athletes. This tool focuses on enhancing self-awareness, responsible decision-making, self-management, social and cultural awareness, and promoting digital and social media mindfulness. You'll experience how the HWW fosters community-building, goal-setting, and deep reflection. Take a deep dive into kid-grit's unique approach to holistic human development for young athletes.

*Julia Gabor, Mindful Founder, kid-grit, Los Angeles, CA*  
*Jeffrey L. Jordan, Mindful Co-Founder, kid-grit, Jersey City*

### 26. Responding to Unsafe Behavior

This workshop is appropriate for all levels of staff. In this workshop, we'll explore different characteristics of children who use unsafe behavior, the underlying influences on those behaviors, and how our own perceptions can influence our responses. We'll look at options for interpreting and responding to behavior in new and effective ways.

*Phillip Collazo, MEd, CYT, Education and Training Specialist, Kids Included Together, Fort Lauderdale, FL*

### 27. Be Prepared: Getting Ready for the Information Literacy Standards

Learn how you can play a role in the implementation of the New Jersey Student Learning Standards in information literacy being developed by the NJ Department of Education. Gain an understanding of information literacy basics and the resources and partners available for support.

*Sharon Rawlins, Youth Services Specialist, New Jersey State Library, Trenton*



# Saturday Session 1 9:45am - 11:15am

## 28. Getting to the Money: Grant Writing Made Easy

Identifying and sustaining funding opportunities can be one of the most challenging tasks of out-of-school time (OST) programs. Many program providers have varied backgrounds and experience levels which could either help or hinder their ability to effectively identify and craft high-quality grant narratives. In this workshop, OST program providers will learn the basics of crafting a high-quality grant narrative and budget for foundational grant opportunities, identify potential upcoming opportunities, and learn best practices centered on grant writing.

*Sheneika Simmons, Founder/Principal Consultant, Simmons Leadership Services, LLC, Wake Forest, NC*

## 29. Hurry Up and Wait...

Waiting for the bus? The bathroom? The other kids to finish up in the gym? Instead of standing around, take out your “Hurry Up & Wait . . .” tool kit of activities and ideas for anytime your group finds itself with some unscheduled time on its hands. This very active, hands on workshop introduces quick, engaging activities for a broad range of ages that keeps groups positively engaged even during the most unexpected times so that everyone’s having fun instead of hurrying up & waiting.

**Come dressed to play!**

*Dagmar Wojcik, Quality Team Director, NJSACC, Westfield*

## 30. Yes, There’s a Difference Between a Manager and a Supervisor... Fascinating Isn’t It?

A manager and a supervisor are both important roles, but they have distinct differences. Both are responsible for leading and motivating the team, but there’s a time to manage and a time to supervise. Whether you are new to the leadership team or are a seasoned veteran, this workshop will help you take a closer look at the difference between management versus leadership and how to navigate and pivot between the two.

*Dorine Francis, Technical Assistance Specialist, NJSACC, Westfield*

## 31. NBA Math Hoops - Creating the Next Math Champion

NBA Math Hoops leverages the game of basketball and the NBA/WNBA brands to build fundamental math and social-emotional skills through a physical and digital basketball-themed board game, a curriculum, and a community program experience. Designed for students in grades 4-8, this free program develops students’ algebra readiness prior to entering high school, while strengthening important skills including self-regulation and executive function.

*Steve Young, Manager Program Outreach & Recruitment, Learn Fresh, Philadelphia, PA*

## 32. From Concept to Celebration: Building Engaging Curriculum and Culminating Events

In this session, participants will learn how to design engaging afterschool curricula that lead to impactful culminating events showcasing youth achievements. The training will cover aligning curriculum with organizational goals, fostering youth development, and building strategic partnerships with community organizations, schools, and businesses. Participants will leave with actionable tools and steps to implement effective programs, create meaningful events, and collaborate with partners to extend the reach and impact of their work.

*Christina Jones, Chief Operating Officer, Boys and Girls Club of Mercer County, Lawrence*



# Saturday Session 1 continued

## 33. Navigating Your Influence: Effective Advocacy for Out of School Time

This workshop provides strategies to identify your advocacy sphere and amplify youth voices effectively in initiatives like Youth Advocacy Day. Attendees will explore lobbying vs. advocacy, enhancing outreach, and navigating the legislative process to influence change.

*Isaiah Fudge, Director of Positive Youth Development at Advocates for Children of New Jersey, Newark*

*Tyneisha K. Gibbs, Director of Policy and Youth Advocacy, NJSACC, Westfield*

## 34. Hugging an Elephant: Embracing Courageous Conversations in Our Spaces

Elephants are huge. Can you imagine giving one a hug? There are moments where we are faced with something like an elephant, and we may not feel like even getting close enough to address it. It can be intimidating and potentially messy. This session is inspired by the work of Glenn Singleton and Cyndie Hays who coined the term “courageous conversations”. Together we will explore creating authentic dialogue in our spaces around difficult and uncomfortable issues.

*Hillary Jones, Director, Professional Learning, Foundations, Inc, Mt. Laurel*

## 35. Planning Support for Youth with Autism Spectrum Disorder

This workshop is appropriate for all levels of staff. Autism Spectrum Disorder impacts the developmental skills of children and youth in a variety of ways that can affect their participation and relationships. This training will explore strategies to support social interactions, communication, and sensory processing needs.

*Phillip Collazo, MEd, CYT, Education and Training Specialist, Kids Included Together, Fort Lauderdale, FL*

## 36. Healthier Generation “Me Moment” Retreat

Join Healthier Generation for a Me Moment retreat, a workshop to help staff, families, and kids feel their best. Learn how to set up a calm space at work or home and try simple activities to lower stress and feel more relaxed. These tools are key for preventing burnout, improving mental health, and building lifelong habits for well-being. You’ll also receive a list of free resources to share with coworkers, family, and youth to help everyone stay healthy and happy. A few lucky attendees will win a “Me Moment” gift bag!

*Daniel Hatcher, Senior Director of Strategic Partnerships, Alliance for a Healthier Generation, Washington DC*



# Saturday Session 2

12:30pm - 1:45pm

## 37. AI for Afterschool: A Virtual Assistant for OST Professionals

In this fun, hands-on session, Adam Cruz, NJSACC's Chief Operating Officer will demystify how AI can help streamline daily afterschool and OST program tasks, protocols, and step-by-step guides.

Attendees will explore how AI works and learn how to use it as a virtual assistant to expedite communications, documentation, and planning. Whether you're explaining processes for newly hired staff, managing vendor outreach or following up with parents, you'll leave with practical AI tools to simplify your workflow, save time, and focus more on youth engagement!

*Adam Cruz, COO, NJSACC, Westfield*

## 38. Planning Engaging Activities

Are your kids engaged? Did you know that having planned activities can decrease the amount of misbehaviors in your group or program? In this hands-on workshop, participants will review different learning styles, determine appropriate activities by age and stage, and learn how to effectively organize and document their activity plans.

*Patricia Pugliese, Technical Assistance Specialist, NJSACC, Westfield*

## 39. 21st Century Afterschool Science Project (21st CASP)

Explore water and water ecosystems in this hands-on sampler of activities to be found in CASP's free, inquiry based, science curriculum that's fun for all school age programs. This is a great STEM resource to add to your afterschool program to engage staff and students in the wonders of science!

*Kandece Francis, Quality Support Manager, NJSACC, Westfield*

## 40. MLB Players STEM League - Creating the Next Math Champion

Launched in partnership with the MLB Players Trust, MLB Players STEM League is a baseball-inspired program for students in grades 4-8. The program brings to life the energy of the sport through a board game and curriculum that cultivate students & math and social-emotional skills. The program is FREE for youth-development organizations and schools of all types, helping young people build new skills, confidence, and a passion for learning through a fun and engaging program rooted in sport.

*Steve Young, Manager Program Outreach & Recruitment, Learn Fresh,*

## 41. The ABCs of Playground Safety

In this engaging, newly updated workshop, learn how to properly analyze playgrounds for potential problems and hazards; recognize unsafe play; effectively monitor play areas; develop methods of communication for use in emergency situations; and learn how to develop an effective supervision plan to reduce injuries and promote safe play.

*TJ Coakley, BS, MBA, CPT, NJSACC Board Member, Co-Owner, Harrison Kids and Fun and Fit Aftercare, Mullica Hill*

### 42. Self-Care to Keep Us Thriving!

OST professionals and providers are natural caretakers that often sacrifice themselves, in order to serve and support youth and families. Consistency in our own self-care is essential for any professional; particularly youth development professionals working to provide high quality OST programming. In this workshop, we will discuss a holistic approach to self-care and participants will learn and implement strategies, tips and tricks to manage stress to function at our best and be aware of indicators of burnout.

*Ebony Grace, CEO, NJSACC, Westfield*

### 43. Not Artsy? Not a Problem: Unlocking Creativity for Everyone

Discover how to lead dynamic art activities—even if you don't consider yourself artistic! In this hands-on workshop, OST leaders will explore the difference between creativity and artistic skill, learning how to reframe arts activities as powerful tools for youth development. Through practical exercises, leaders will gain confidence in leading arts-based projects that foster self-expression, problem-solving, and collaboration. Unlock creativity in every young person, supporting their growth and engagement in a fun and inclusive way!

*Hillary Jones, Director, Professional Learning, Foundations, Inc, Mt. Laurel*

### 44. Turning Down the Heat on Behavior

This workshop is appropriate for all levels of staff. Children use behavior. Providers are challenged by behavior. This training will introduce the Kids Included Together (KIT) Behavior Thermometer to help participants distinguish between typical, challenging, concerning, and unsafe behavior.

*By Phillip Collazo, MSED, CYT, Education and Training Specialist, Kids Included Together, Fort Lauderdale, FL*

### 45. Preschool Expansion- Where do we start and how does it affect the OST space?

Is your local school district adding pre-K classes? Are you considering including 3s and 4s in before and afterschool care? Join us to hear firsthand how you can begin to navigate this change. We'll discuss the positives and potential pitfalls, and help you make a list of things to plan for. Topics will include staff hiring and training, how to adapt lesson plans and activities, and how to message with parents. We'll also have time set aside for a pair/share and group-think session to brainstorm any issues you might currently be encountering.

*Becca Gutwirth, Program Consultant, Medford*

## Saturday Session 3

2:00pm - 3:15pm

### 46. A Celebration of Community

As we close the conference, we'll gather as a community to reflect on the inspiring moments we've shared, connections we've made, and lessons we've learned. Together, we'll set intentions for the year ahead and take a moment to express gratitude for one another and ourselves. Leave feeling recharged, connected, and ready to continue making a positive impact. A few lucky attendees will win a The Walking Classroom WalkKit.

*Daniel Hatcher, Senior Director of Strategic Partnerships, Alliance for a Healthier Generation, Washington DC*



# YOUR CONFERENCE CONTENT GUIDE – REGISTRATION ONLINE ONLY

## Friday Opening Session: 8:45am-9:45am

A Celebration of You

## Friday Session 1: 10:00am - 11:30am

1. NJ Quality Standards for Afterschool Deep Dive Part 1
2. Professional Development for the Youth Development Professional
3. Team Building for School Age Staff & Kids
4. Using the OST Job Quality Standards to Address Recruitment and Retention Challenges
5. All You Need to Know About Licensing
6. Building Community: Intentional Youth Engagement Strategies to Foster Resilience
7. Advancing Your Afterschool Career: How to Reach the Next Level in Our Field
8. Tips, Tricks, Tools – Strategies for Training Adult Staff
9. Calm the Heat – De-Escalation Techniques That Work

## Friday Session 2: 1:30pm - 3:00pm

10. NJ Quality Standards for Afterschool Deep Dive Part 2
11. Clarifying Team Expectations
12. Enhancing OST Programming and Operations with Artificial Intelligence
13. CACFP Funding for Afterschool and Preschool Meals Available!
14. Fostering Equitable STEM Play in Afterschool Settings
15. Leadership Lab: Level Up Your Site Management
16. Raise Them Up!
17. Building Inclusive Settings that Support Behavior
18. Stress Management: Rewrite Your Stress Story

## Friday Session 3: 3:15pm - 4:30pm

19. From Purpose to Progress: Coaching for Goal-Driven Success
20. Easy Ways to Take Your Students Outside for Health and Learning
21. Public Speaking: Building Resiliency in Youth
22. From Distraction to Action: Boosting Students & Executive Function Skills
23. Fast, Easy Games to Play with Minimal Supplies
24. Knowing Your People: How to Engage Students, Staff and Stakeholders
25. Unlocking Potential: Exploring the Holistic Wellness Wheel through Sports-Based Youth Development
26. Responding to Unsafe Behavior
27. Be Prepared: Getting Ready for the Information Literacy Standards

## Saturday Session 1: 9:45am - 11:15am

28. Getting to the Money: Grant Writing Made Easy
29. Hurry Up and Wait...
30. Yes, There's a Difference Between a Manager and a Supervisor... Fascinating Isn't It?
31. NBA Math Hoops - Creating the Next Math Champion
32. From Concept to Celebration: Building Engaging Curriculum and Culminating Events
33. Navigating Your Influence: Effective Advocacy for Out of School Time
34. Hugging an Elephant: Embracing Courageous Conversations in Our Spaces
35. Planning Support for Youth with Autism Spectrum Disorder
36. Healthier Generation "Me Moment" Retreat

## Saturday Opening Session 8:30am-9:30am

The Future Starts with Connection

## Saturday Session 2: 12:30pm - 1:45pm

37. AI for Afterschool: A Virtual Assistant for OST Professionals
38. Planning Engaging Activities
39. 21st Century Afterschool Science Project (21st CASP)
40. MLB Players STEM League - Creating the Next Math Champion
41. The ABCs of Playground Safety
42. Self-Care to Keep Us Thriving!
43. Not Artsy? Not a Problem: Unlocking Creativity for Everyone
44. Turning Down the Heat on Behavior
45. Preschool Expansion- Where do we start and how does it affect the OST space?

## Saturday Session 3: 2:00pm - 3:15pm

46. A Celebration of Community

Workshops at a Glance



## CONFERENCE FEES

\$334 / 2 days

\$209 / 1 day

### Conference Location and Accommodations:

The Marriott Princeton Hotel and Conference Center at Forrestal  
100 College Road East, Princeton, NJ 08540

## HOTEL ACCOMMODATIONS

Room Rates: \$174 per night (single) / \$184 per night (double)

Reservations must be made by individual attendees directly with Marriott reservations at (800) 228-9290 or (609) 452-7800.

Room reservations must be made on or before Friday, March 21, 2025. When you call make sure to mention the NJSACC Conference and the dates of the conference in order to receive the conference rate.

## DIRECTIONS

### From Northern New Jersey:

- Take the Garden State Parkway South to Exit 130, Route 1 South.
- Take Route 1 South approximately 22 miles to College Road East.
- Take College Road East, Marriott Princeton is the second driveway on your right.

OR

- Take the New Jersey Turnpike South to Exit 9 - New Brunswick.
- Follow Route 18 North for approximately 1/4 mile to Route 1 South.
- Take Route 1 South approximately 13 miles to College Road East.
- Take College Road East, Marriott Princeton is the second driveway on your right.

### From Southern New Jersey:

- Follow I-295 North to Route 1 North (Exit 67).
- Take Route 1 North for approximately 6.5 miles to College Road East.
- Exit right on College Road East, Marriott Princeton is the second driveway on your right.

### From Philadelphia (50 miles):

- Follow I-95 North into New Jersey to Route 1 North (Exit 67).
- Take Route 1 North for approximately 6.5 miles to College Road East.
- Exit right on College Road East, Marriott Princeton is the second driveway on your right.

If you get lost along the way, call the Marriott at: 609-452-7800 ext. 5180. Marriott Guest Services staff will be happy to assist you.

We look forward to seeing you at the 2025 annual conference!



[www.njsacc.org](http://www.njsacc.org)



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networks



Partnerships

This conference is funded in part by the:

- NJ Department of Human Services, Division of Family Development as part of a Federal CCDF Block Grant Earmark
- Federal Elementary and Secondary Education Act, as amended by No Child Left Behind, Title IV, Part B, Nita M. Lowey 21st Century Community Learning Center (21st CCLC) grant funds through a grant agreement with the New Jersey Department of Education



**NJSACC is once again proud to bring you a selection of workshops from Kids Included Together.**

**Kids Included Together (KIT) is the national leader in disability inclusion and behavior support. KIT provides organizations the necessary tools and training to ensure that their programs are welcoming and accessible to the 1 in 6 children who have disabilities. By creating inclusive environments where no child is excluded, everyone benefits.**

**KIT was founded in San Diego in 1997, having grown out of a partnership between the San Diego Jewish Community Foundation and the Lawrence Family Jewish Community Center to increase inclusive programming. In the mid-2000s, KIT began to get national attention for its work promoting inclusive practices and in 2010 signed a contract with the Department of Defense to implement inclusion training in every military child and youth program throughout the world. Over the past 20 years, KIT has supported more than 600 organizations that represent community child and youth, state and national organizations, school districts, arts and recreation, and military child and youth programs in 48 states and 13 countries. KIT has trained over 100,000 people in more than 2,500 in-person training sessions, developed 156 online trainings, and completed over 3,300 coaching and consultations by phone.**

**KIT provides best-in-class training and technical assistance through job-embedded professional development, on-going coaching and consulting. KIT's areas of expertise include accommodations and program modifications, behavior support, assistive technology, social-emotional learning, communication with families, the laws supporting inclusion and more. KIT is simultaneously driving the national conversation on inclusion for child and youth programs while teaching inclusive practices on an international scale. As part of this national scope, KIT and the National Afterschool Association formally became partners in 2018 to advance disability inclusion in afterschool.**

**This year KIT will be presenting workshops on topics including fostering friendships, creating a bag of tricks, planning supports for youth with Autism Spectrum Disorder, and creating a culture of acceptance for tween and teens. If you'd like to learn more about how KIT can help you build disability inclusion capacity at your organization, visit [www.kit.org](http://www.kit.org).**