



21st Century Community Learning Centers Newsletter—August 2013



Program Manager's Message



On behalf of our 21st CCLC state team, I would like to welcome you back for another exciting and sure to be successful year in 21st CCLC. As we did during our Annual

Subgrantee Training, it is always important to take a step back and celebrate our achievements during the previous year. I am proud to say that our programs and our state have never had as successful of a year in 21st CCLC than we did in FY13. Your programs reached more parents,

made stronger connections with more partners, and consistently served more students than ever before. The most exciting part about our success is that we can make even more of an impact this year as all of our programs are returning. I challenge you to push your programs even more this year to serve more students and parents and make an even greater impact in your communities.

One way to make more of a presence in your community is to host a *Lights On Afterschool!* event. On October 17, 2013, thousands of afterschool programs throughout the country will

celebrate their programs and highlight the importance of our afterschool movement. Please visit the Afterschool Alliance website for more information about this important day.

Our team is looking forward to working with you again this year. Please let us know what we can do to better serve you and, more importantly, help your program reach new heights. I truly believe this is our year to shine in Georgia. Good luck and let's get to work!

Mike Thaler
21st CCLC Program Manager

Excitement Fuels Attendance



A new school year can evoke all types of emotion, everything from excitement to worry. But believe it or not, the majority of students are excited to be back in school! The long summer days with tireless amounts of social media followed by endless hashtags and the agony of not seeing their friends face to face creates a strange anticipation to begin the new school year. It is at the start of a new school year that you will see students rush in to school to show off their new clothes, growth spurts, and remaining splashes of summer hair color. So now is the time for you to be just as excited to start your afterschool programs, **Excitement Fuels Attendance!** At this point of the school year, students are dying for more social time to spend with their friends, old and new. And sometimes, the regular school day having classes and all, just doesn't permit that type of social climate. Here is where your programs come in. Engage them now with an exciting afterschool program; promote your program as having that extra social element that they don't get a chance to experience during the school day. Be sure to define a healthy

excitement that will be beneficial for staff and students. By doing this, you will already have won half the attendance battle as far as engagement is concerned. Research suggests that programs have a higher rate of retention when participants start attending out of desire as opposed to necessity. Allow this excitement to serve as bait to hook them now, instead of using failing grades as bait later. As many of you mentioned it's not so much the recruitment that is the issue when it comes to attendance, but the retention. Let's start this year's programs with a bang of excitement that will not only catch their attention for now, but cultivate a mindset of wanting to come to afterschool not because they have to but because they want to. Remember, **Excitement Fuels Attendance!** Hashtag... #Excitementfuelsattendance!!!!

Teka Allen and Jennifer Bateman

21st CCLC Attendance Specialists

Volume 2, Issue 1

Grant Specialist's Corner



Greetings 21st Century Community Learning Centers programs. I hope everyone is getting the new school year off to a great start! We have 136

continuing subgrantees that are enthusiastic and excited about continuing the great work we are doing in our state. We would like to remind you the Georgia Department of Education will release its FY15 Request for Proposal (RFP) on August 26, 2013. The deadline for the FY15 RFP will be January 29, 2014 at 2:00 p.m. We are

very excited to announce that applicants will be able to complete and submit the entire RFP online. We hope this new process will help make the application process more accessible and less complicated for our applicants. Here at the Georgia Department of Education we have planned several trainings to help you in completing your FY15 RFP.

As we embark on this exciting journey through the school year, I want to thank you for being such a positive influence on the students you serve daily. 21st CCLC programs across the state are truly making a difference! As the Georgia 21st CCLC state staff strives to support your efforts, we are also working on

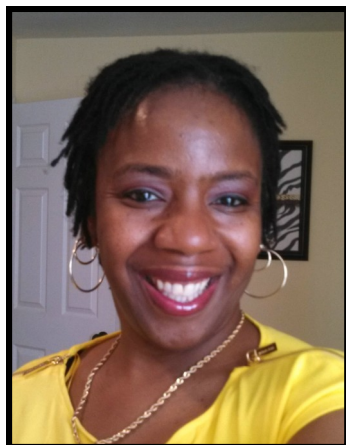
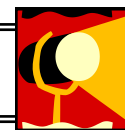
strengthening our services. Please continue to let us know how we can improve and support your work. Please share your ideas, thoughts, insights, and expertise through phone calls, emails, and surveys. It is our goal to increase communication and use your feedback to make our programming more effective and efficient. Have a great school year!

Questions? Comments? Suggestions? Want to be featured in a newsletter?

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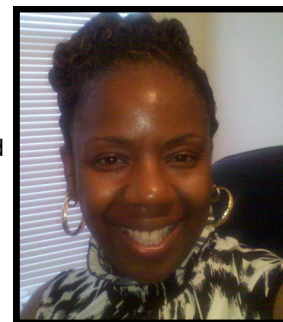
State Staff Spotlight



This issue's spotlight shines on **Simone Danielson**, one of our Education Research and Evaluation Specialists (ERES). Simone Danielson has spent over 20 years working with youth. She has a Bachelor's in Business Administration and a Master's in Education. She has served as an 8th grade math teacher, lead teacher in mathematics, and as an instructional coach in mathematics. She has conducted numerous professional development sessions for teachers on how to improve mathematics instruction and creating an engaging classroom. She is a National Board Certified Teacher in Early Adolescent Mathematics and currently serves as the Region 2 ERES, although many of

you may recognize her as the Region 5 ERES during FY13. Simone enjoys seeing the light bulb come on in the minds of students and strives to assist the stakeholders who work with students in "flipping that switch" to "on" in a way that is creative and engaging.

When she is not working, Simone enjoys spending time with her husband and children, roller skating, and reading.



21st CCLC Students Are College Bound: Posse Foundation Scholarship Awardees



Posse is one of the most comprehensive and renowned college access and youth leadership development programs in the United States. Founded in 1989, Posse identifies public high school students with extraordinary academic and leadership potential who may be overlooked by traditional college selection processes. Posse extends to these students the opportunity to pursue personal and academic excellence by placing them in supportive, multicultural teams or 'Posses' of 10 students. Posse partner colleges and universities award Posse Scholars four-year, full-tuition leadership scholarships. We are proud to have two of our very own 21st CCLC students as Posse Scholars from the Center for Pan Asian Community Services (CPACS). They are Rahel Tebo (pictured left) and Winta Mehari (pictured middle). These two amazing 21st CCLC students have been active in the community as influential leaders in the CPACS Community Action for Teens (C.A.T.) program. They have successfully been awarded scholarships from the Posse Foundation and are off to Boston University (Rahel) and Bard College (Winta) this fall.

Characteristically Speaking.....

Watch your thoughts, for they become words
 Watch your words, for they become actions
 Watch your actions, for they become habits
 Watch your habits, for they become character
 Watch your character, for it becomes your destiny...

Frank Outlaw

The average student spends 7

hours daily with teachers and staff in a school setting. Students who attend after school programs can spend up to 10 hours away from home. The reality is that schools and programs play a critical role in the social development of students.

How does your program lead and support character education?

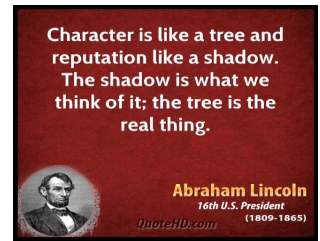
Think about some of the next questions and identify where character education and action align in your program.

- * Are all adults in the program committed to modeling and teaching good character?
- * Is there a stakeholders' committee that directs the program's character education initiative?
- * Is character education action planning a part of program improvement planning?

- * Does the core of the character education initiatives focus on relationships?
- * Is character education connected to the curriculum? Do teachers, instructors, and staff members take advantage of "teachable moments" that relate to character?
- * Are the character education efforts clearly visible throughout the program?
- * Do meetings put character education into practice by encouraging adults and students to share and respect each other's social and emotional needs?
- * Do announcements reinforce the character education initiative?
- * Are partners business and community supporting school and community character building efforts?
- * Are program assemblies/meetings

- emphasizing and recognizing positive character?
- * Is there a positive behavior initiative that support the character education initiative?
- * Is service-learning and reflection a part of the school's/program's character education initiative?

Adapted from [Character Education by Design: A Blueprint for Successful School Initiatives, 2011](#)
 Visit www.character.org for more information.



Program Highlight: Towns County 21st CCLC Garden Project

The Towns County 21st Century Afterschool Program began a Garden Project during the 2012-2013 school year. Our Garden Project has several components of Farm to School. We have a school garden, cooking classes using local food, and Vermiculture. We have formed partnerships with the local garden club, the master gardeners, school agriculture department, our school nutrition program, the county commissioner, and local chefs to support program activities.



The county commissioner donated funds to build raised beds and the school agriculture classes built six raised beds.

Our afterschool program uses four of the raised beds and also built three salad tables and six salad boxes in our afterschool construction class. The students planted radishes, okra, beans, corn, tomatoes, lettuce and strawberries. In May members of the Towns County Garden Club and Master Gardeners volunteered with our Spring Planting Day. Students worked with community experts to plant a summer garden. Students also heard from a local expert about heirloom seeds and the practice of seed saving.

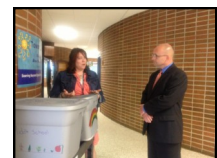


Students participated in cooking classes all year with a focus on using local food and food that students had grown themselves earlier in the year. A local chef came and demonstrated two different recipes for the students to use radishes that they had grown in the raised beds. The students made radish pickles and a roasted radish and onion dip.



The final piece of our garden project is our worms... aka Vermiculture. In our program we use indoor tubs to grow worms and harvest their castings. The castings are

used in our school garden. We started the year with 8 tubs with 1000 worms each. The worms live in shredded paper bedding and are fed scraps from our lunchroom. In the winter the worm castings were harvested about once every two months, but in the summer they produce castings much faster. The worms even met Dr. Barge on his visit to our school last May.



We are excited to begin entrepreneurship activities this year with the students and our garden project. This truly has been a project that our community has wrapped itself around and fully supports. We are excited to see where it takes our program.

Remember to block off these dates!



August

- International Lefthander Day**
August 13, 2013
- National Relaxation Day**
August 15, 2013
- Signed Grant Assurance and Conflict of Interest/Disclosure Policy Due**
August 19, 2013
- Original Budget Approvals/ Submitted through Consolidated Application**
August 19, 2013
- FY15 RFP Released**
August 26, 2013

September

- Fruits and Veggie-More Matters Month and Hispanic Heritage Month**
September 2013
- 21st CCLC FY15 RFP Blackboard Webinar**
September 6, 2013
- International Literacy Day and National Grandparents Day**
September 8, 2013
- Constitution Day**
September 17, 2013
- International Talk Like a Pirate Day**
September 19, 2013
- 21st CCLC FY15 RFP Technical Workshop**
September 20, 2013
- National Family Day**
September 23, 2013
- Family Health & Fitness Day**
September 28, 2013
- Signed Operations Manual Assurances Due Complete First 30-day Checklist Cayen/Afterschool 21Data must be updated or entered**
September 30, 2013

October

- 21st CCLC FY15 RFP Webinar Training #1**
October 4, 2013
- World Teacher Day**
October 5, 2013
- National Child Health Day**
October 7, 2013
- National Stop Bullying Day and Walk to School Day**
October 9, 2013
- Lights On Afterschool Celebration**
October 17, 2013
- National School Lunch Week**
October 14-18, 2013
- 21st CCLC FY15 RFP Intent to Apply Due by 2:00 pm**
October 25, 2013
- Make A Difference Day**
October 26, 2013
- National Red Ribbon Week**
October 23-31, 2013
- National Chocolate Day**
October 28, 2013
- Complete First 60-day Checklist**
October 31, 2013

Idea Wall - Shaping Learning with Engagement



Engaging to Learn

Creating a successful learning environment for all students takes skill, innovation and lots of patience. Below are some ideas to shape programming before, during and throughout "leftover time" and instruction time.

Organizing: Have a board outside of the room that tells students what they need to bring for each day.

Assign grouped students with literature-inspired names or simple letters, then post each group's daily schedule in a central area.

Reflections: Have students write responses to reflection questions. "What,

if anything, would you like to change about yourself, and what is one thing you can do tomorrow to start?"
"Describe one moment in your life when you felt you learned something important."

"What do you do well, and what helps you be successful in doing it?"

Connecting learning: Have students write or map responses to connection questions.

"How does today's learning connect to what you already know?"

"How did it extend your thinking further?"

"What questions do you still have?"

Problem-solving: Instead of using

valuable session time to sort through minor to moderate issues, direct students to write their problems in a secure "Problem Book." Have them answer two questions: "What happened?" and "What will you try next time?" Then commit to reviewing the problem with the student outside of class or workshop time to seek resolution.

Adapted from "[Spotlight on Classroom Management, Education Week ; edweek.org, August 2013.](#)"