

# 21st Century Community Learning Centers Newsletter



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## 1st Ever Georgia Afterschool and Youth Development Conference

On January 9-11, 2013, Georgia's Department of Education, Department of Human Services and the Governor's Office for Children and Families collaborated to host Georgia's first ever Afterschool and Youth Development Conference. Appropriately themed "creating a unified vision to serve Georgia's youth," the conference convened over seven-hundred afterschool providers at the Classic Center in Athens. Providers from all over Georgia attended workshop designed to equip them with best practices and strategies for building high-quality programming. Over sixty workshop training options were offered including topics such as STEM in an Afterschool Setting, Remaking Homework

Time, Boosting Program Quality and Youth Empowerment Strategies. The eight quality elements of the Georgia Afterschool Standards were also released during the conference.

In addition to workshop opportunities, conference participants heard from a variety of keynote speakers. State School Superintendent, Dr. John Barge, spoke about engaging Georgia students in high-quality afterschool programming to support and increase student achievement. Nationally recognized speakers, Dr. Grant Rivera, Judge Stephen Teske, and Monica Pearson shared stories of inspiration that left attendees energized, uplift-

ed, motivated and excited. An afterschool aid from Atlanta was overheard saying, "This is the best staff development opportunity I have ever experienced." We truly hope more conference attendees shared similar experiences. As we look forward to the 2014 conference, please continue to build on "creating the unified vision" by implementing lessons learned through this conference in your programs. Together Towards Tomorrow!  
*(additional photos on page 4)*



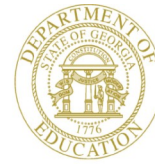
**Back Row (from left to right):**  
Ron Scroggy, DFCS; Michael Thaler, DOE; Commissioner Clyde L. Reese, DHS; Dr. John Barge, Georgia State School Superintendent; Lamar W. Smith, DFCS; Carmen C. Callaway, DFCS; and Peggy Woodard, DFCS  
**Front Row (from left to right):**  
Dannette Walker, DOE; First Lady Sandra Deal; Katie Jo Ballard, Executive Director of GOCF; Heather McDaniel, GOCF; and Felicia Tuggle, DFCS



Georgia's 21st Century Community Learning Center Family!



**Grant Specialist Corner**



*Dr. John D. Barge, State School Superintendent  
"Making Education Work for All Georgians"*

**Just One**

*Unknown Author*

One song can spark a moment  
 One flower can wake a dream  
 One tree can start a forest  
 One bird can herald spring  
 One smile begins friendship  
 One handclap lifts a soul  
 One star can guide a ship at sea  
 One vote can change a nation  
 One sunbeam lights a room  
 One candle wipes all the darkness  
 One laugh will conquer gloom  
 One step must start each journey  
 One hope will raise our spirits  
 One touch can show you care  
 One voice can speak with wisdom  
 One heart can know what's true  
 One life can make a difference  
 You see, it's up to you!!!

Thank you for touching the lives of every student in your program. You make a difference and I am thrilled to be associated with so many incredible people. As the Georgia 21st Century Community Learning Centers (21<sup>st</sup> CCLC) team strives to support your efforts, we are working to strengthen our services. Thus far this year, we launched the following initiatives:

- \* Presented our First Annual Afterschool and Youth Development Conference
- \* Started a Sustainability Training
- \* Started a quarterly 21st CCLC Newsletter
- \* Refined Carryover Funding

As we continue to build the 21st CCLC program, please let us

know how we can improve and support your work. Consider sharing your insights and expertise through surveys, communicating technical assistance needs and initiating informal conversations. We hope to increase communication and use your feedback to inform change.

~Dannette Walker,  
 21st CCLCs  
 Grant Specialist

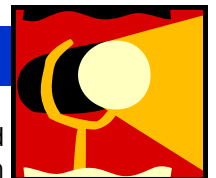
**State Staff Spotlight**



This issue's spotlight shines on **Kenya Pitts Elder**, one of our Education Research and Evaluation Specialists. Before joining the Georgia Department of Education in 2012, she was the program director for the 21st Century Community Learning Centers Program with Carrollton City Schools. Kenya also served as a media specialist at Carrollton City Schools and taught second grade in Fulton County. Currently, she provides technical assistance to 21<sup>st</sup> Century Programs in Region 2. In addition to earning a Bache-

lors of Arts degree in Mass Communications, Kenya obtained a Masters of Education degree in School Library Media, an Educational Specialist degree in Media and Instructional Technology, an Educational Leadership certificate and is now working on a Doctor of Education degree from Walden University. Kenya is dedicated to being a lifelong learner and has benefited from a career in education for 16 years. She and her husband, Darius, have two

daughters, Jazlin and Kiersten. They reside in Lithia Springs, Georgia. A Georgia native, Kenya enjoys walking, traveling, and spending quality time with close friends and family.



**Working with Older Youth**

Many afterschool programs struggle to recruit and retain older students. Barriers to older youth involvement are tremendous. Challenges include recruitment, sustaining program involvement, competing with paid employment, stronger interest in peer interaction vs. structured activities, younger sibling care responsibilities, and lack of transportation.

Innovation and creativity are essential to designing programs for older youth. The Harvard Family Research

Project recommends the following strategies for working with older youth during out-of-school time:

- Provide leadership and real world experiences
- Offer flexible attendance policies and accessible locations
- Create a program structure built around understanding youth
- Provide varied activities that are tailored to youth's interests and needs

- Leverage peer relationships to engage older youth
- Allow routine opportunities for staff communication and learning focused on older youth engagement
- Allow opportunities for feedback to create student "buy-in"

The full article, *Research Updates: Highlights From The OST Database* is available at [www.hfrp.org](http://www.hfrp.org).



**Program Highlight: White County Intermediate School  
21st CCLC Shines in "The 21st Reindeer Whisperer"**

Twenty-First Century students at White County Intermediate School in Cleveland, Georgia, recently performed a Christmas musical: "The Reindeer Whisperer." Under the direction of music teacher, Joel Rogers, and 21<sup>st</sup> Century site coordinator, Johna Oliver, students were given the opportunity to sing, perform, and shine. Third through fifth

graders performed a comical musical about reindeers that refuse to fly on Christmas Eve. The plot revolved around Santa (student, Jonathan Allison) and Mrs. Claus (student, Hannah Stevenson) summoning a reindeer whisperer (student, Marquis Howell) to help the reindeer fly again. The reindeer whisperer has a tough time, but

ultimately saves the day! The character education lessons in the play were quite profound. The student performers and audience members were all gently reminded about the Golden Rule of thinking before speaking. The students in the musical worked very hard and gave an outstanding performance!

**Don't forget our next sustainability training webinar: Aligning fiscal and non-fiscal resources is Friday, February 15th at 1:00 PM!**





**Do you Know How to *Listen* to English Learners?**



Teaching students with limited or no English language skills can present an opportunity to strengthen out of school communication skill-building for all. Engage students by listening and encouraging them to listen to one another. **First, some communication tips for educators and staff members:**

- Don't expect or seek 100% comprehension.
- Know that comprehension is sometimes "faked" to appear cooperative and respectful, or to avoid embarrassment.
- Make what you say as understandable as possible. Use gestures, ap-

propriate language levels, pointing and facial expressions to help make your meaning clear. Help learners do the same.

- Speak clearly and in a normal tone of voice. *Louder is not clearer.*
- Help learners practice gesturing. Playing a game of Gestures is appropriate when centered on a particular skill.
- Be patient. Wait for words to come. Encourage guessing.

**Next, Explore collaborative learning activities to build communica-**

**tion skills:** One great idea is to pair students and have them choose pictures from magazines, books or newspapers. Students take turns describing the picture while the other students draw it. At the end describers and artists compare, showing their descriptive language and listening skills. What are they learning? English comprehension; location and descriptive vocabulary; context to meaning; challenges to clear communication; peer and group work; self-correction and cooperation efforts.

*Adapted from More Than Just Talk: English Language Learning in Afterschool; Claudia Weisburd, Ph.D., and Tamara Sniad, Ph.D. Center for Afterschool and Community Education*

## Remember to block off these dates!

### Children's Dental Health Month

February, 2013

### National Black History Month

February, 2013

### National Stop Bullying Day

February 8, 2013

### National Inventor's Day

February 11, 2013

### National Nutrition Month

March, 2013

### Dr. Seuss Read Across America Day

March 2, 2013

### National Anthem Day

March 3, 2013

### International Pancake Day

March 12, 2013

### International Ask A Question Day

March 14, 2013

### National Stress Awareness Month

April, 2013

### Public School Volunteer Week

April 14-20, 2013

### Week of the Young Child

April 14-20, 2013

### Take Our Daughter & Son to Work Day

April 25, 2013

### National TV Turnoff Week

April 28- May 4, 2013



### GaDOE is on the Web!

<http://www.gadoe.org>

Follow us on Twitter: @gadoenews and @drjohnbarga

Like us on Facebook: <http://www.facebook.com/gadoe>

## Idea Wall-SQ3R!



**SQ3R** is an acronym for a popular study system which helps students get the most from studying.

Afterschool teachers and tutors can assist middle and high school students in mastering material with this technique that is easy to remember and apply.

**Survey**-this first step should take no more than 5 minutes to get an overview of what the chapter or book is about. Students read the preface, table of contents, chapter titles, headings,

graphs, summaries, etc.

**Question**-Students survey the material again, but stop at each section and ask questions about what they hope to learn by reading the material. This will help increase interest in the topic and focus attention on learning.

**Read**-Read the material. *But don't take notes or highlight anything yet.* The first time the student reads through the material, it is not known which facts are important, so taking notes is difficult and inefficient.

**Recite**-Here the student should try to answer the questions asked

before. Look at the material only if necessary. Talking and reading out loud can help to reinforce the information. This step should take about half of the student's time for this entire task.

**Review**-Students survey the material again and take note of which areas were recited successfully and which areas were not. A review right after studying will help solidify the material. Periodic reviews will help refresh the memory.

*Adapted from "Mentalrobics-SQ3R"; Braingle.com*

# 21st Century Community Learning Centers Program Staff

Georgia Department of Education  
Outreach Programs  
School Improvement: 21st Century Community Learning Centers  
1862 Twin Towers East  
205 Jesse Hill Jr. Drive, SE  
Atlanta, Georgia 30334



**Michael Thaler, 21st CCLC Program Manager**  
mthaler@doe.k12.ga.us  
(404) 232-1197

**Ilisha Terez-Evans, 21st CCLC Program Secretary**  
iterez@doe.k12.ga.us  
(404) 463-6450

**Dannette Walker, Grant Specialist**  
dwalker@doe.k12.ga.us  
(404) 463-6439

**Michele Thomas, Education Research and Evaluation Specialist**  
mithomas@doe.k12.ga.us  
(404) 416-0599

**Anne Christol, Education Research and Evaluation Specialist**  
achristol@doe.k12.ga.us  
(404) 695-1883

**Simone Danielson, Education Research and Evaluation Specialist**  
simone.danielson@doe.k12.ga.us  
(678) 595-8963

**Kenya Elder, Education Research and Evaluation Specialist**  
kelder@doe.k12.ga.us  
(404) 971-0399

**Rondalyn Pinckney, Education Research and Evaluation Specialist**  
rpinckney@doe.k12.ga.us  
(678) 596-8814

**Cindy Turner, Education Research and Evaluation Specialist**  
cturner@doe.k12.ga.us  
(404) 416-0598



# 21st Century Community Learning Centers Program Staff continued

**Gregory Wickersham, Education Research and Evaluation Specialist**  
 gwickersham@doe.k12.ga.us  
 (404) 557-4177

**Tehsin Akram, Fiscal Analyst/Auditor**  
 takram@doe.k12.ga.us  
 (404) 463-6438

**Desmond Carter, Fiscal Analyst/Auditor**  
 decarter@doe.k12.ga.us  
 (404) 463-6437

**Andre' Hill, Fiscal Analyst/Auditor**  
 ahill@doe.k12.ga.us  
 (404) 232-1250



The purpose of Georgia's Title IV, Part B, 21st Century Community Learning Centers Program is to provide federal funds to establish or expand community learning centers that operate during out-of-school hours and that have three specific purposes:

- To provide opportunities for academic enrichment and tutorial services
- To offer students a broad array of additional services, programs, and activities to reinforce and complement the regular academic program; and
- To offer families of 21st CCLC students opportunities for literacy and related educational development.

**Check 21st CCLC out on the on  
the Web!!**

<http://www.gadoe.org/School-Improvement/Federal-Programs/Pages/21st-Century-Community-Learning-Centers.aspx>

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

Contact Dannette Walker, 21st  
CCLC Grant Specialist  
Phone: 404-463-6439  
Fax: 770-357-1881  
dwalker@doe.k12.ga.us