



The following information is also available on www.psaydn.org.

Take Ten!

Welcome to *Take Ten!* - A monthly bulletin designed to keep you informed. We invite you to take 10 minutes a month to update yourself with what's going on in the network and the afterschool/youth development field.

January 2007

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THE SPOTLIGHT!

Southwestern PA Afterschool Resource Collaboration (SPARC) - The mission of this new initiative is to develop an organized system and processes to collect, analyze and disseminate information about afterschool programs and services in southwestern Pennsylvania in order to help guide planning decisions and consumer choice. Currently, SPARC has a live online database up and running; to visit go to www.pghafterschool.com/. In the second year of the initiative, data collection efforts for this project will be expanding beyond the City of Pittsburgh and Allegheny County. An online resource with a searchable website directory of afterschool programs similar to www.pghafterschool.com/ will be available for the ten county Southwestern PA Region by Spring 2007. For more information about SPARC please contact, Alana Kulesa at <mailto:akulesa@3rc.org>

PSAYDN UPDATE

Stay informed – Here's what's going on.

- **Quality for Youth** – The Heinz Endowments has awarded PSAYDN a one-year \$50,000 planning grant to conduct an assessment process for the development of a statewide out-of-school time capacity building system, designed to measure and improve the quality of afterschool programs across settings and ages served. This process will provide an opportunity for input from providers, parents, and youth as to what they see as quality.
- **Mentoring Services for Communities** - The Center for Schools and Communities, in partnership with PSAYDN and the Pennsylvania Department of Education hosted a live online session in December on mentoring. The session entitled "Building the Capacity of Communities to Provide Mentoring Services" was lead by presenters Lynda Terrell, Managing Director for Campaign for Mentors- United Way of Southeastern PA and Colleen Fedor, Executive Director for The Mentoring Partnership of Southwestern PA. Participants were provided with information about the value of mentoring as well as what organizations can do to promote the development of mentoring programs within their afterschool programs and community. To view the recorded online presentation and download materials, visit www.psaydn.org.

PROMISING PRACTICES – PROVEN STRATEGIES

This is what is going on locally and nationally.

Pennsylvania

Pennsylvania is ranked 10th in the nation for elementary and secondary performance on Education Week's "Quality Counts" report. States' rankings on the annual report card were based upon their effort to connect education and preparation from birth to adulthood and provide a perspective on the significance of education. For further information on the Quality Counts report for 2007, visit www.edweek.org.

Uniontown, Fayette County – “Securing tomorrow, by influencing the youth of today” is the mission statement for Young Inspiration, a non-profit afterschool program in Uniontown, Pennsylvania. The organization serves students from schools with the lowest PSSA scores and economic status in the area. After two years of program operation, Young Inspiration’s data show that more than half of their students improved academically and about 78% of their high school seniors were accepted to college. For more information about Young Inspiration, visit www.younginspiration.org.

Around the Country

Maryland – What does it take to invest in summer? The Center for Summer Learning will conduct a two-year cost analysis of summer learning programs to improve understanding among practitioners, policymakers, and philanthropists. For more information about the research or how to participate, visit www.summerlearning.org.

RECOMMENDED READING

Check out these recent articles and research on Afterschool/Youth Development issues.

- **Every Child, Every Promise: Turning Failure into Action!** – Research measuring the affect of America’s Five Promises on children’s lives indicates a positive outcome.
http://www.americaspromise.org/ECEP.aspx?id=208&ekmense1=10_submenu_130_btnlink
- **Measuring Outcomes For Children And Youth In Out-Of-School Time Programs: Moving Beyond Measuring Academics** – Research shows that children who attend after-school programs not only benefit academically, but also in areas such as: health and safety, social and emotional development and self-sufficiency. To read, visit <http://www.afterschoolnetwork.org/resources/pdf/ResearchChildTrends.pdf>.
- **“The Study that Ignited (or Diluted) Mentoring”** – An article in the current issue of [Youth Today](#) explores the use and misuse of Public/Private Venture’s Landmark 1995 report, [Making a Difference](#). The report, based on its impact study of Big Brothers Big Sisters, found that mentoring, as implemented by BBBS, had tangible and significant benefits. For more information visit www.ppv.org or go to http://www.ppv.org/ppv/pdf_uploads/259_publication.pdf.
- **Putting Youth Work on the Map**- New report provides complete picture of youth workers in the United States. The report is based on findings from two major studies (for more information on the studies visit www.forumforyouthinvestment.org or www.nydic.org/nydic/library/publications/documents/NextGen.pdf) conducted of more than 5,000 youth workers across the nation, incorporating their voices and perspectives in an effort to illustrate the challenges and aspirations of these critical, but often overlooked workers.

UPCOMING EVENTS

Mark your calendars; you don’t want to miss these events.

- **2/7/07 – 2/10/07 Beyond School Hours 10** - The event will explore the latest professional development, funding, and programming strategies for afterschool. For more details, visit <http://www.foundationsinc.org/events>.
- **2/23/07 Annual PHENND Conference: Power, Access, and Equity** – To register, visit <http://www.upenn.edu/ccp/PHENND/events/2007conf.html>.
- **3/7/07 – 3/9/07 Promising Practices: Proven Strategies Conference** - Sponsored by PA Department of Education, in partnership with CSC. For more information on registration, visit <http://www.21stcccl.org/events.php>
- **3/7/07 PSAYDN Annual Meeting** - Membership meeting and reception at the Hilton Harrisburg. To register, please visit www.psaydn.org.

The **PSAYDN** is a collaborative effort among state, regional and local partners. Its purpose is to promote sustainable, high quality out-of-school time youth development programs through advocacy and capacity building to enhance the welfare of Pennsylvania’s children, youth and families.

To learn more about PSAYDN, please contact:

Pennsylvania Statewide Afterschool/Youth Development Network
Phone: 717.763.1661 ext. 138
E-mail: psaydn@csc.csiu.org.