

# TakeTen!

A monthly bulletin designed to keep you informed.

pennsylvania statewide  
**afterschool**  
youth development  
network

The Spotlight!

News

Practices &  
Strategies

Recommended  
Reading

Upcoming  
Events

Advocacy  
Corner

## October 2009

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. **This edition of Take Ten focuses on programs serving older youth.**

This information is also available on [www.psaydn.org](http://www.psaydn.org).

*Pennsylvania Statewide Afterschool/Youth Development Network (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, call 717-763-1661 or email [psaydn@csc.csiu.org](mailto:psaydn@csc.csiu.org)*



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## The Spotlight

### **PSAYDN Welcomes New Director**

Kathleen (Kacy) Conley is the newly appointed Director of the Pennsylvania Statewide Afterschool/Youth Development Network. In her 31-year career with the YMCA, Conley had extensive experience in youth and family program development and delivery, coordination of services, coalition building and advocacy.



As Director of Urban Partnerships and Advocacy for the Y of Central Maryland, she helped develop myriad partnerships between Baltimore City Schools, the YMCA and local community based organizations as well. She was also State Director for the Maryland State YMCA Youth and Government program. As Director of Urban Services, Conley managed fifteen afterschool and out of school programs including several 21st Century Community Learning programs as well as advocated for effective Afterschool Programs on federal, state and local levels. For seven years she was Co-Chair of the Youth Investment Partnership – Maryland's Coalition for Youth and was also a member of the Maryland State Ready by 21 Task Group. She is an Ambassador Emeritus for the Afterschool Alliance and was honored as 2008 Maryland Afterschool Champion by the Afterschool Alliance. Conley received her Bachelor's of Science degree in Education and Master's in Speech and Drama from the Catholic University of America, Washington, DC.

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Reading

Upcoming  
Events

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Corner

## News

### PSAYDN Annual Meeting

The PSAYDN Annual Meeting was held August 6th at the Harrisburg/Hershey Holiday Inn in Grantville and involved forty-five participants representing the breadth of PSAYDN's Stakeholders from throughout the commonwealth. Presentations included: an overview of PSAYDN's accomplishments over the last years by CSC Director Lynn Cromley and Youth Development Director Shileste Overton-Morris; Policy Report by Bill Bartle and David Callahan, PA Partnerships for Children; Current Directions of Afterschool at the National Level by Janelle Cousino, Fowler Hoffman; Building Global Literacy in Afterschool by Joana Davis-Diaz, Center for Afterschool Education, Foundations Inc.; and The Impact of the Legislative Budget and Finance Committee Report on the Network by Thierry Malley, Boys and Girls Clubs, PA Council. In addition, the Policy/Communications and Quality/Career/Pathways Committees met and developed their objectives for the coming year.

### Grants Available

Grant funding is currently available from UnitedHealthcare to Help Pennsylvania Children Get and Stay Healthy. Schools and youth-focused, community center-based programs are eligible for UnitedHealth HEROES grants of up to \$1,000 to help children learn about childhood obesity and to design, address and implement programs that combat it in their communities. To obtain an application and apply online, visit [www.ysa.org](http://www.ysa.org) and click on the "UnitedHealth HEROES" link under "Support – Get Funding" or the "UnitedHealth HEROES" link under "What's New." Applications are due before midnight, Thursday, Oct. 22, 2009. Grant recipients will be notified in December 2009 and January 2010.



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## Promising Practices – Proven Strategies

*Learn about what is going on locally and nationally.*

### **Pennsylvania**

#### ***Boxing program gives kids chance to dodge punches instead of bullets.***

He was only 15, but the scars from three bullet wounds in his leg bore witness to a violence-prone lifestyle. So last fall, desperate to change his life, Edgardo Del Valle tacked a note on the headquarters of the Reading Inner City Boxing Club in Baer Park. "I want to come here, to get off the street and do something with my life," he wrote. "Please let me in." This prompted the Route 222 Corridor Anti-Gang Initiative and a handful of spirited coaches to create an afterschool program for 75 Reading youngsters. To read the complete article from the Reading Eagle, [click here](#).

### **Around the Country**

The Colorado MESA program in Denver, Colorado uses hands-on, team building and mentoring activities to help build social and literacy skills to increase the number of economically disadvantaged and at risk

students who graduate from high school fully prepared for post secondary education in engineering, math, science, computer science, business and other math and science-based fields.

Field trips to colleges, universities and industry sites, as well as engineering and science-related design challenges excite students, sharpen their skills and increase their awareness of career opportunities. Read the full issue brief, *Afterschool: A High School Dropout Prevention Tool*, from the After School Alliance and MetLife Foundation by [clicking here](#).



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 Reading

Upcoming  
 Events

Advocacy  
 Corner

## Recommended Reading

Check out these recent articles, research and reviews on afterschool and youth development issues.

### **A Guide to Effective Investments in Positive Youth Development: Implications of Research for Financing and Sustaining Programs and Services for Youth**

Recent research on what makes an effective youth development program is included in the paper. Evidence-based programs around the country are highlighted, as well as stressing the importance of using data on outcomes and results to guide funding decisions. It also stresses the importance of taking a broad approach toward youth development rather than dealing with single issues. To access the full guide, [click here](#).



### **Learning Around the Clock: Benefits of Expanded Learning Opportunities for Older Youth**

This report identifies and describes Expanded Learning Opportunities (ELOs) that improve academic performance, college and career preparation, social and emotional development, and health and wellness outcomes for underserved youth. To read this report from the American Youth Policy Forum, [click here](#).

### **Youth Who Are “Disconnected” and those Who then Reconnect: Assessing the Influence of Family, Programs, Peers and Communities**

This Research Brief presents the results of new Child Trends' analyses on factors that have a bearing on whether youth become disconnected, updating previous research on the subject, as well as factors relating to youth reconnecting after a period of disconnection. To conduct these analyses, Child Trends drew on data from a nationally representative survey of youth which followed a sample of young people for four years. Findings show a variety of factors affect the likelihood of an adolescent's disconnection and reconnection, including demographics, family processes, youth characteristics and behaviors, peer characteristics, and community characteristics. Participation in a job search, job training or school-to-work program is related to a lower risk of becoming disconnected. To read more, [click here](#).

### **Roadmap to Afterschool for All**

Along with the Harvard School of Public Health, the Charles Stewart Mott Foundation, and Atlantic Philanthropies, the Afterschool Alliance initiated the *Roadmap to Afterschool for All*, a scientific study that assesses the current investment in afterschool programs from the public sector, parents, foundations and businesses, and estimates the additional investment needed from each sector to provide quality afterschool programs for all children. For more information or to read the study, visit <http://www.afterschoolalliance.org/roadmap.cfm>

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 Reading

Upcoming  
 Events

Advocacy  
 Corner

## Upcoming Events

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

2009 Pennsylvania Department of Education Migrant Education Program Conference, **Education without Borders: Bridges to Literacy**, October 19-21, 2009, Radisson Hotel Valley Forge, King of Prussia, PA

This conference, presented by the Pennsylvania Department of Education Migrant Education Program in partnership with the Center for Schools and Communities, is designed for school districts, intermediate units, private schools, charter schools, non-public schools and career – technical center personnel, parents, community organizations and agencies and Migrant Education Program staff. For complete details including registration information, [click here](#).

Pennsylvania Summit on Educational Excellence for Latino Students **Roots for Change: Strengthening Pennsylvania's Future – Latino Students in the Era of Globalization/La Cumbre Latina de Educación** will be held December 3-4, 2009 at the Lancaster Marriott. This two-day event, sponsored by Pennsylvania Department of Education and the Governor's Advisory Commission on Latino Affairs (GACLA) in partnership with the Center for Schools and Communities, provides an opportunity for educators, guidance counselors, administrators, policy-makers, parents, community-based agency staff, and those who work for and on behalf of Latino students to engage in dialogues to proactively address the needs of Latino students. To register and read about the conference, [click here](#).



Teaching Tolerance Announces the 8th Annual **Mix It Up at Lunch Day** will be held nationwide on Tuesday, November 10, 2009. *Mix It Up* seeks to break down the barriers between students and improve inter-group relations so there are fewer misunderstandings that can lead to conflicts, bullying, and harassment. Since the program got started in 2002, *Mix It Up at Lunch Day* has taken place in more than 20,000 schools across the country, with meaningful results. Research conducted in 2006 by Quality Education Data, Inc. (then part of Scholastic) found that the event helped students become more comfortable interacting with different kinds of people, helped them make new friends across group lines and bolstered school spirit and unity. Teaching Tolerance is launching a new era in the *Mix It Up* program, one that leverages the Web to bring people together. For more details and to register your school, visit [www.mixitup.org](http://www.mixitup.org).

**Hope for a More Peaceful World**, the International Bullying Prevention Association 6th Annual Conference, will be held November 16-18, 2009 in Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania. This conference will provide the latest research and evidence-based best practices for identifying and preventing bullying and cyber bullying. Conference presenting sponsor is Highmark Healthy High 5, an initiative of the Highmark Foundation. The conference is presented in partnership by the International Bullying Prevention Association, the Center for Safe Schools and the Pennsylvania Department of Education. For more information about IBPA and the conference, please visit: <http://www.stopbullyingworld.org>

### Save these Dates in 2010

*Beyond School Hours XIII Conference* will be held February 17-20, 2010 in Jacksonville, FL. For registration and details, go to [www.beyondschoolhours.org](http://www.beyondschoolhours.org)

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Recommended  
 Reading

Upcoming  
 Events

Advocacy  
 Corner

## Advocacy Corner

Over 260 afterschool programs in Pennsylvania have registered to participate in the 10th Annual **Lights On Afterschool!** Celebration on Thursday, October 22, 2009. Are you one of them? These events will help raise awareness of the need for afterschool programs as well as get the word out that afterschool programs keep kids safe, inspire learning and help working families. In these tough economic times, this urgent message needs to be shared with key stakeholders: parents, schools, elected officials, businesses and community members. To assist in your efforts, the following resources are available:

*Lights On Afterschool!* Tool Kit on the Afterschool Alliance's website, [www.afterschoolalliance.org](http://www.afterschoolalliance.org); *Advocacy Now Tool Kit*; and the online presentation *Planning a Lights On! Event* on the PA Statewide Afterschool/Youth Development Network (PSAYDN) website, [www.psaydn.org](http://www.psaydn.org)

Please tell us about your successful event so that it can potentially be highlighted on the Afterschool Alliance's website as well as in the PSAYDN *Take Ten* Newsletter. Send your Celebration highlights (in 150-300 words) as well as pictures to [psaydn@csc.csiu.org](mailto:psaydn@csc.csiu.org). All who submit a 2009 highlight will be entered into a drawing for a *Lights On Afterschool!* 2010 Super Resource Kit valued at over \$200.

