



New York
21st Century Community Learning Centers
SOARING BEYOND EXPECTATIONS

Greetings Colleagues:

We are back, excited and have hit the ground running! We are ecstatic about collaborating with you to provide personalized technical assistance and targeted professional development through the 21st Century Community Learning Centers Rest of State Resource Center at Ulster BOCES to all 58 funded programs in the rest of state including the Big Four districts: Yonkers, Syracuse, Rochester and Buffalo.

As a backdrop, the 21st Century Community Learning Centers (21st CCLC) initiative is the only federal funding source dedicated to supporting local summer learning and afterschool programs. The Elementary and Secondary Education Act, now known as the Every Student Succeeds Act (ESSA), updated and reauthorized the 21st CCLC program in December 2015. Each state receives funds based on its share of Title I funding for low-income students. Grants support afterschool and summer learning programs that provide the following services to students attending high-poverty, low-performing schools:

- ✓ Academic enrichment activities that can help students meet state and local achievement standards.
- ✓ A broad array of additional services designed to reinforce and complement the regular academic program, such as: drug and violence prevention programs, counseling programs, art, music, and recreation programs, technology education programs, and character education programs.
- ✓ Literacy and related educational development services to the families of children who are served in the program.

We realize that Round 6 will soon sunset however, every single day that we can positively impact the life of a child is critical therefore we will give 100% to support YOU!

MEET THE TEAM



Dr. Felicia A. Watson is back with the New York State Education Department's 21st CCLC program. She will serve as the Director of New York State's 21st CCLC Rest of State Resource Center located at Ulster BOCES. This is a role that she has held before, serving as the Director of the New York Statewide Technical Assistance Center from 2006 to 2011. She is a nationally recognized education advocate with over 17 years of experience driving the improvement of federal and state education programs through professional development trainings and technical assistance. Dr. Watson leads school districts in positive school reform through best practices around school safety and positive school culture & climate.

Dr. Watson is passionate about her work and has been aligned with numerous projects through the U.S. Department of Education, New York State Education Department, New York State Office of the Governor, New York State Division of Criminal Justice Services and the National Alliance of Black School Educators. Her affiliation with the National Crime Prevention Council and Skinner Leadership Institute allowed her to present numerous education summits at The White House and on national television networks.

Dr. Watson has traveled the world extensively, spending two years in Barcelona, Spain while completing graduate studies. She is a strong advocate of personal and civic responsibility in all aspects of life, has extensive experience in positive youth development and is relentless in her belief that all children are educable and can soar academically.



Kristie Wikane will serve as the Afterschool Specialist responsible for technical assistance targeting programs in the Long Island, Hudson Valley and Eastern regions. Kristie is a native upstate New Yorker, recently returned home to the Hudson Valley. She has a diverse work history to include an enlistment in the US Army, fisheries technician on both the Hudson River and the whitewater rivers of Utah, SCUBA diver, collector of recreational data in the Florida Keys, and classroom teacher. She attended Paul Smith's College in the Adirondacks, earning a Bachelor's degree in Field Biology and Ecology. She also attended the University at Buffalo, earning her Master's Degree in Adolescence Education (Biology 7-12).

Kristie taught seventh grade science in rural North Carolina at Rockingham Middle School, a Title I school. In addition to teaching her classes, she also facilitated afterschool clubs to include Science Olympiad, BETA Club, and Gravity Games (a Google and Appalachian State University sponsored soap-box derby race, equipment provided by UNC's Morehead Planetarium, a sponsor of the 2014 ScieNCe Festival). Her favorite part of the school day was afterschool when students were afforded more freedom to be themselves and to learn through exploration and discovery as they prepared for statewide STEM competitions. Watching students choose to stay afterschool to do science was one of the most rewarding parts of her time in North Carolina.

As a huge fan of students, learning, and all things STEM, Kristie looks forward to serving all of the 21st Century Community Learning Centers and providing support to the programs in any way she can as an Afterschool Specialist.

Lura Lunkenheimer and **Joanna Thompson** are no strangers to The Afterschool Movement. Together, they will provide technical assistance and professional development support to grantees in the Western, Mid-West and Mid-State regions.



Dr. Lura Lunkenheimer is the President of Peaceful Schools, an educational consulting company serving New York State for over 15 years. Lura is an educator and staff development trainer with over twenty years experience. She has expertise in youth development, social emotional learning, conflict resolution, restorative practices, positive behavioral interventions and supports and enrichment education.

Under her guidance, Peaceful Schools has delivered a variety of programs and supports including school violence prevention education, after school, summer school and extended learning time programs to Syracuse City School District, funded through 21st CCLC and Extended School Day/School Violence Prevention Grants.

In addition to her work with Peaceful Schools, Lura has been involved with numerous organizations to benefit the safety and well-being of children, including: The National Center for Missing and Exploited Children, Central New York Out of School Time Network, and the New York State After-School Network (formerly NYSAN now NYS Network for Youth Success) as a Central New York Regional Representative.

Lura's Doctorate is in Education and her Master's in Counseling & Psychological Services, specializing in School Psychology. She is excited to support 21st CCLC providers and looks forward to meeting the providers in her region.



Joanna obtained her Master's degree in Childhood Education and began her career by teaching third grade in Amherst, NY. After eight years of teaching, she went on to be the Site Coordinator for the 21st Century Program in the largest Buffalo City Elementary School. There, she witnessed the excitement of the children attending the afterschool program and got to see the academic and social progress they made.

Joanna became a member of the Peaceful Schools' team in 2013 as a Positive Behavior Interventions and Supports (PBIS) Coach. Through that role she was able to provide technical assistance, professional development and support to administrators, teachers, and support staff in a variety of school settings. Joanna's most recent endeavor has been spearheading the expansion of Peaceful Schools presence in the western region of New

York State. As Regional Coordinator of Western New York for Peaceful Schools, she coordinates professional development offerings, develops curriculum materials and manages the touring productions including the Western New York tour of *"Have You Filled A Bucket Today? The Play"*.

As a former teacher and a former 21st Century Site Coordinator, Joanna is very excited about her new role as the 21st Century Afterschool Specialist and hopes to help as many programs as possible.

NEW AND IMPROVED STATEWIDE WEBSITE

We are currently in the throes of working with a highly skilled, creative designer to revamp the 21st CCLC Resource Centers website. The website will be more user-friendly, informative and a tool that can optimally benefit all grantees throughout New York State. You will be able to access:



Current research-based resources and information on effective practices in out-of-school time programming. As well as relevant resources to build capacity to meet the needs of your students and their families.



A variety of venues for data-driven technology capacity building mediums including webcasts, webinars, streaming video, slide presentations etc.



An e-newsletter with 'hot off the press' information to keep grantees 'in the know' of information in The Afterschool Movement.



Links to national and state resources



Interactive listservs and discussion forums via webinars, Facebook and other interactive social media mediums.

If you have ideas of what you would like to see included on the website please contact Kristie Wikane via email kwikane@ulsterboces.org or by calling 845.255.8989 ext. 2202. This website is for YOU and we value your opinion and need your input.





SAVE THE DATE

**21st CCLC Rest of State
Professional Development Conference
January 19 – 20, 2017**

High quality professional development for grantees is necessary for the success of ensuring high quality afterschool programs. The 21st CCLC Rest of State Resource Center Professional Development Conference will be held January 19-20, 2017 at the New York State Museum in Albany, NY.

We believe that it is imperative for the conference provider to model what is expected from grantees within their programs. This conference will do just that! It will be informative, impactful, invigorating and FUN! If you are a part of the After School Movement, do NOT miss this experience.

Stay tuned, complete details and registration information will be emailed to grantees soon....

Who Should Attend:

- Program Directors • Program Coordinators • Program Evaluators • Program School Principals
- Program Superintendents • In brief, ALL of those interested in the After School Movement.....

Focus Areas Include:

- STEM • Community Engagement • Sustainability • Parental Involvement • Social Emotional Development
- Peer Networking and Sharing

Call for Presentations:

If you are interested in presenting on any of the aforementioned topics the **Call for Presentations** information is forthcoming.

This is a learning community. We are indeed, in this TOGETHER! We're looking forward to working with you and your team as we positively impact the lives of our most precious assets, OUR YOUTH! Happy and safe holidays to each of you!

Shalom,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Leticia A. Statton". The signature is written in black ink on a white background.