

# 21st Century News

## Grant Just Released to Support After- school Programs in Ohio

The Ohio Department of Education (ODE) and The Ohio Department of Job and Family Services (ODJFS) just announced a new grant opportunity for school districts.

The grants are targeted to high poverty schools and districts that are in Academic Emergency, Watch, or Continuous Improvement. Funding priority is also given to programs serving middle and high school youth.

Funds will be allocated on a county-by-county basis once schools have submitted applications and budgets. If your school qualifies and did not get an application, please email [Jackson.360@osu.edu](mailto:Jackson.360@osu.edu)  
Due date is June 2, 2006.

## Diane Schneider-Farmer, New 21st CCLCs Consultant at ODE



*Diane Schneider-Farmer  
21stCCLCs Consultant*

Diane L. Schneider-Farmer, MBA, DTR is the new Ohio Department of Education Educational Consultant that will coordinate and oversee the state wide implementation of the 21<sup>st</sup> Century Community Learning Centers (CCLCs).

Diane administered a 21st CCLC afterschool program for immigrant and refugee children and their families at Columbus State Community College's, Community Education Workforce Development Department, Language Institute. She also has taught for eight years at several colleges and universities in the Columbus area as an adjunct

faculty member.

Most recently she was an Instructional Coach for Leap Frog School House working with 27 schools and 48 ESL teachers in Central Ohio.

In addition, Diane developed a "Kids in the Kitchen" cooking series to improve nutrition and cooking strategies for children in the home while at the Columbus State Culinary Academy.

Diane tells us, "My professional mission is to promote health and wellness in the community via educational programming."

## A Unique Idea for Engaging Families

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One of the many innovative and unique ideas for engaging families presented at the April 25th 21st CCLCs Family Engagement Conference involved the implementation of Time Dollar Stores.

Time Dollar Stores are a means to engage parents/guardians in school or afterschool activities, especially in activities that support increased academic support and family involvement in schooling. Time Dollar Stores provide an

incentive to families by rewarding parents/guardians who volunteer or participate in the school or afterschool programs. A time dollar is provided to parents/guardians for every hour of service.

Time Dollars are redeemable at a Time Dollar Store located in the school or nearby community. The Store is stocked with goods that are not covered by food stamps, such as soap, shampoo, dish towels, toilet paper, and other per-

sonal hygiene items. Most items stocked at the Time Dollar Store are donated. Some Time Dollar Stores also engage parents/guardians as leaders who manage the Store and seek donations and/or funds to support its implementation.

Time Dollars allow people to help themselves by helping other. For more information go to <http://www.timedollar.org>

## 21st CCLCs Professional Development In Ohio

### Scholastic Books

**Warehouse Sale, May 13-26**, at Lewis Center warehouse. Go to <http://teacher.scholastic.com/fairs/warehouse/states/oh.asp> for hours and a map.

### New Harvard Family Research Project Report: What Are Kids Getting Into These Days?

- Children from higher income families are more likely to participate in OST programs
- Youth from lower incomes are more likely to participate in tutoring programs than youth from higher incomes
- Latino youth were most under-represented in programs
- Participation rates are rising in OST programs for all youth

**The Environmental Education Council of Ohio** provides leadership and free resources throughout the state. Go to <http://eecoonline.org/index.html>

As the busy spring days race past, it's time to think about professional development. The Ohio Community Collaboration Model for School Improvement (OCCMSI) project will be offering 3 more workshops throughout the state in May. 21st CCLCs grantees are invited to continue the dialog on sustainability with *Sustainability II: Money Matters* in Columbus on May 10th.

The Columbus Metropolitan Libraries Foundations' librarian will present on grant seeking, ODE will send a consultant to share information on becoming a Supplemental Education Service (SES) provider, and ODJFS will give tips on tapping into child care dollars. Attendees also will have opportunities to share strategies and work together.

Youth Development will be the

topic on May 17th in Zanesville. Attendees will have opportunities to evaluate their youth engagement strategies and share ideas with other grantees. Please note the Dayton training for May 16th was cancelled.

As we begin planning for next year, please let us know what professional development topics would interest you. Contact Karen at [jackson.360@osu.edu](mailto:jackson.360@osu.edu)

### What are Kids Getting Into These Days: A New Study from the Harvard Family Research Project Tells Who, What, Where, & When

The Harvard Family Research Project, with the support of the William T. Grant Foundation, is conducting a study on factors that predict whether youth will participate in out-of-school time (OST) programs. A report on the first phase of the study was released in March and has information relevant to Ohio's 21st CCLCs. Key findings from the study are:

There have been increases in participation rates among youth,

particularly those from lower income families. The participation rate gap between lower income and higher income youth is closing.

Still youth from higher income families were more likely to participate than those from lower income families. An important exception to this was, however, participation in tutoring programs. Youth from lower income families were more likely to par-

ticipate in OST tutoring programs than higher income youth. Participation varied among racial groups and type of program, as youth from varying ethnic and racial backgrounds are participating at different rates. Please see sidebar.

For more information on this topic go to: <http://www.gse.harvard.edu/~hfrp/projects/afterschool/resources/demographic.html>

### Additional Professional Development Opportunities

The **National Institute on Out-of-School Time** is offering trainings this summer. *Links to Learning* is a training on designing curriculum and integrating arts, science, math, and literacy into programming - \$495 til May 15th. *Leadership Institute for a Changing Afterschool Landscape* trains program supervi-

sors and directors on how to lead their program through successful transitions.—\$495 til May 15. For more information go to: <http://www.niost.org>

**Peak Afterschool Conference** from McRel will be held June 14-16th at Copper Mountain, Colorado. Registration is \$229 until

May 12th. For more information about Peak, go to <http://ascentmeetings.com/mcREL.htm>

**The Coalition for Community Schools National Forum** will be held June 14-16th in Baltimore, MD. Registration is \$345 until May 10th. For information go to [www.communityschools.org](http://www.communityschools.org)

## The Big Lie??? Halpern Reframes Expectations of Afterschool Programs

A relatively recent article by a well known researcher on afterschool issues, *Confronting the Big Lie: The Need to Reframe Expectations of Afterschool Programs*, poses intriguing and worrisome questions about the field of afterschool. Implications are particularly important for 21st CCLCs.

In his article, Robert Halpern describes the long history of afterschool programs and the incredible variety of purposes that have driven the creation of these programs in the past. He discusses the fairly recent expectations driv-

ing program implementation today. He proposes that afterschool programs must prioritize programming that makes clear, positive impacts on the academic achievement of program participants, particularly in the domains of math and science.

Halpern (2006) states, "Afterschool providers have always been responsive to larger societal pressures...but external pressures in the 1990s...compelled afterschool providers to make promises about academic effects that those providers knew

were unrealistic." Hence, the big lie, as research and evaluation of these programs has not shown clear or meaningful academic improvements among youth attending these programs (including some 21st CCLCs).

He further discusses challenges in evaluating programs, especially given the multiple purposes of programs, the multiple theoretical bases, and the

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## Are you going to the Afterschool Challenge?

People from Across the U.S. will be meeting with members of Congress and Legislators in Washington D.C. on May 23rd & 24th to encourage responsible funding for afterschool programs.

If you attend, please tell us about your experience. Contact Karen at [Jackson.360@osu.edu](mailto:Jackson.360@osu.edu)

## Upcoming Funding Opportunities

**Nationwide Foundation** provides grants in the areas of education, arts, civic and community involvement. Deadline: Sept. 1st

<http://www.nationwide.com/nw/about-us/community-involvement/investigating-in-people/index.ht.?WT.svl-3#Nationwide%20Foundation>

**The Dominion Foundation** supports organizations in communities in Ohio where it provides electricity and natural gas. Awards range from \$1,000-\$15,000. Contact Community Investment Board, Attn: Ms Terry D. Bishop, Dominion East Ohio, P.O. Box 5759, Cleveland, OH 44101-0750. or go to <http://www.dom.com/about/community/foundation>

**Ohio Environmental Education Fund** awards more than \$1mil annually to schools and nonprofits to support projects that increase awareness of environmental issues in Ohio. Go to <http://www.epa.state.oh.us/oeef>

*"Nature Deficit Disorder"*  
*Richard Louv's book, [Last Child in the Woods: Saving Our Children From Nature-Deficit Disorder](#) raises interesting and troubling theories about today and the future. A great book to discuss with people who care about kids.—*  
*the eclectic reader*

## New Resources for 21st CCLC Programs

### Funworks— Thinking about Careers

Research has shown us that middle school youth are interested in career preparation. Information found at <http://www.thefunworks.org/> was compiled by more than 300 middle school students from around the country. It focuses on

linking youth interests and hobbies to future careers. It's full of resources that cater to youth ages 11-15 who need information about careers in science, technology, engineering, math, art & design, music and sports.

**Partnerships for After-School Success** is a brief prepared by

the National Youth Development Information Center. It has a free, downloadable tool kit that provides research perspectives, strategies for successful programming, and useful checklists. Visit <http://www.nydic.org/nydic/toolkits/index.htm>.

**Please** forward this newsletter to others you think may be interested. If you did not get this newsletter directly, please send an email to [Jackson.360@osu.edu](mailto:Jackson.360@osu.edu)  
To be added to our mailing list.

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## Increase Student Achievement by Addressing Non-Academic Barriers to Learning

*The Ohio Community Collaboration Model for School Improvement (OCCMSI) is a school improvement framework built upon traditional school reform models by considering both academic and non-academic barriers to school achievement and well-being. At the core of the OCCMSI is the development of successful and strategic partnerships among schools and various community stakeholders. Using five core components as a guide, the model is designed to help schools take stock of programs and initiatives currently operating in their school communities and identify important needs, conditions, resources, and gaps. It aims to build upon the strengths and successes of existing efforts and is driven by collaborative leadership, evaluation, continuous improvement planning and feedback. For more information, contact Dawn Anderson-Butcher (anderson-butcher.1@osu.edu; 614-292-8596).*

### New Resources Continued

The **Ohio Office of Criminal Justice Services** is hosting free grant writing seminars. Federal & state grants will be discussed. Attendees also will receive the publication *Grant writing: Identifying and Applying for Funding in a Competitive Market*. Trainings will be July 17th, Oct 23rd, & Dec 11th from 9-3:30 at 1970 W Broad St., Columbus, 1st Floor. Register at <http://www.ocjs.ohio.gov/Training1/registration.aspx>><http://www.ocjs.ohio.gov/Training>

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multiple individual needs among youth attending these programs. He discusses the difficulties faced by evaluators, as they are often told specifically what to evaluate within the programs by outside sources. He also mentions difficulties well known to Ohio providers, such as program attrition, missing and/or changing requirements, and disconnects between what is measured and what actually is happening in the programs.

Halpern suggests that programs may be positively impacting such things as self-efficacy, cooperation & conflict resolution skills, decision-making skills, and deeper learning about literature, the arts, cultures, and communication. These constructs, however, aren't as easily measured through standard testing procedures.

Halpern says, "Defining appropriate expectations of afterschool programs and figuring out where to look for program effects require a respect for complexity, and a process that is at once deductive (top-down, outside-in) and inductive (bottom-up, inside-out)."

Robert Halpern may not represent the opinions of most 21st CCLCs providers, nor highlight the momentous improvements that have occurred in the last few years in afterschool programming, but he definitely gives us some things to think about in relation to this important work. For the full article, go to: <http://www.pasesetter.org/publicationResources/Publications/PDF/halpern.pdf>

Please contact Karen Jackson at [jackson.360@osu.edu](mailto:jackson.360@osu.edu) if you have anything you would like to share with other 21st CCLCs programs in Ohio. We'd really like to spotlight your achievements & share pictures from your program.