



Arizona Youth Collaborative YOUTH LINK Newsletter

OCTOBER 2008

Dear Colleagues and Friends,

Welcome to the inaugural issue of the Arizona Youth Collaborative E-Newsletter –Youth Link!

We invite you to join the Arizona Youth Collaborative (AZYC), a youth-focused collaborative of professionals who work with or on behalf of youth in Arizona. Working together, the goal of AZYC is to promote the support and opportunities necessary to ensure the long-term success of Arizona's youth. This e-newsletter is designed to keep you informed about key happenings in the youth development field within your community, our state, and across the nation. Share your news, your program successes, tips for effectiveness and stories about successful youth in your community!

We look forward to your feedback and hope you enjoy this issue,

The AZYC Team

About the Arizona Youth Collaborative – Spearheaded by the Norton School of Family and Consumer Sciences and Cooperative Extension at the University of Arizona, the AZYC envisions a future in which all Arizona's youth ages 12-21 have the supports and opportunities necessary to:

- Succeed educationally and professionally
- Earn a livable wage
- Develop positive personal and social relationships
- Be active in civic engagement in their community and state

All youth deserve a successful future, and we are leading the effort to strengthen positive outcomes for young people through four key areas of work statewide:

- Developing youth voice and building the capacity of youth serving organizations
- Increasing the available pool of resources to serve youth
- Advancing applied research in the area of youth development
- Informing public policy and advocacy efforts for the benefit of youth

Our efforts are guided by a strong Advisory Board representative of multiple sectors that impact youth. Learn more about our team and our work by visiting us on the web: [Arizona Youth Collaborative](#)

TRAINING AND EVENTS

Understanding Youth Development: Keys for Successful Programming – Get ready to join us for this exciting opportunity which offers youth development professionals a unique opportunity to participate in a 9-month Learning Community to learn new concepts arising out of the most current research and information on positive youth development. Participants will gain new knowledge and learn successful strategies for taking the latest in research to practice in their programs. At the successful conclusion of the program, participants will receive a certificate and continuing education credit from the University of Arizona. Further details about the training and registration information may be found on our [website](#).

Save the Date! Arizona's Center for Afterschool Excellence will host their annual statewide conference on Saturday, November 8, 2008. Keynote address will be given by Jeff Dozoret of Child & Family Resources. For more information, please visit [The Center for Afterschool Excellence](#)

SCHOLARS COLUMN

VIDEO: Quality Counts Webinar "Program Quality and Youth Outcomes" --This webinar presented by the Forum for Youth Investment, which targeted sites participating in the Ready by 21 Quality Counts initiative, focuses on the relationship between program quality and youth outcomes. Presentations by Karen Finn, Karen Pittman and Charles Smith shed light on how tracking population-level results and indicators at the community level relates to performance assessment at the program level. Tips for how to talk with funders and other stakeholders about the relationship between youth program quality and program outcomes are provided. [View the webinar](#).

TOOLS AND RESOURCES FOR YOUTH PROGRAMS

Mentoring Children of Prisoners: Caregiver's Choice - MENTOR is currently recruiting eligible programs that are interested in receiving federal funding in the amount of \$1,000 per match to introduce mentoring to this particular constituency. In addition to funds, programs will receive access and training on MentorPRO Basic, a data tracking and management system, to improve the quality of these and essentially all mentoring matches supported by the program. For more details visit caregiverschoice@mentoring.org, or to apply, go to: <https://voucher.mentorpro.org/>

Promoting Youth Civic Engagement-- The President's Council on Service and Civic Participation has released a new [online toolkit](#) designed to engage youth from disadvantaged circumstances in volunteer service. Created in partnership with faith-based and community groups, the kit explains how to start and sustain a program and includes field-tested forms, checklists, and useful resources. Check it out!

COMMUNITY PARTNER NEWS

Youth Learn and Teach Gardening and Nutrition at San Carlos Elementary Schools

Six San Carlos High School interns, Jessica Bread, Levi Thompson, Viola Thompson, Shawna Kenton, Lucina Stevens and Brittany Preston learned how to teach gardening and nutrition to 182 elementary students and 18 teachers and teacher's assistants. Using the Junior Master Gardener Curriculum: "Health and Nutrition from the Garden", interns taught health, nutrition, food safety and wise decision-making skills. In turn, they applied the gardening and nutritional concepts to raise a garden. The interns taught first and fourth grade classes at both the Rice Primary and Intermediate schools. Sara Kotler, Dietitian, from San Carlos Diabetes Prevention and Dr. Sabrina Tuttle, Extension Agent, and Celestina Fast Horse, Educational Aide, of University of Arizona Cooperative Extension trained the interns and organized the program with the principals and teachers of the three schools.



Transplanting seeds to the garden

The training portion of the Junior Masters Gardener program consisted of educating ten nutritional lessons (appropriately targeted to specific elementary grade level) to the interns over a course of two months. Interns were then given the opportunity to implement skills and knowledge they acquired through the internship with Mr. Sander's students at the high school.

Please send us your news, events, trainings and success stories to feature in upcoming issues!

Many thanks,
The AZYC Team

