

ANNUAL BACK TO SCHOOL CONFERENCE



Saturday, October 19, 2024

8:30am - 3:15pm



Discover the power of connecting! Join us for a day of SUPER POWER training, networking, and connecting specifically designed for out of school time (OST) directors, site directors, and staff. Earn 6 hours of professional development in NHCIS. Choose your trainings. Morning coffee and lunch is included. Round Table experts will be there to provide resources and answer questions. All participants will take home a gift for their program!

Bedford Event Center

379 South River Road, Bedford, NH



ACROSS NH is funded by the NH Bureau of Child Development and Head Start Collaboration DHHS/DES. Our goal is to provide statewide technical assistance and professional development opportunities to Out of School Time (OST) providers to support their work in creating high quality, innovative programs for school age children.

**Registration
is \$25**

Coffee & Check In:

8:30-9:00am

Morning Session:

9:00-11:00am

Round Table Lunch:

11:00am-12:00pm

Afternoon Session A:

12:00-1:30pm

Afternoon Session B:

1:45-3:15pm

Gift Giveaways:

3:15pm

The last day to register is

October 12th! Go to

<https://bit.ly/3M82vO8>

or scan the QR code here:



All professional development hours will be awarded in your **NH Connections Information Systems** training transcript within 3-5 business days after the conference.

MORNING SESSION CHOICES (Choose One): 9:00-11:00am

What Would You Do? Using Your Super Power in OST

Have you been in a situation that you did not expect at your out of school time (OST) program? We have all been there! Learn how you can harness your super power, share what you have learned with others, and collaborate with like-minded colleagues to grow your experience tool box. This interactive training will be hosted by a panel of experienced OST directors who want to share their support so that you can make constructive decisions when faced with unpredictable situations.

Presenters: *Natalie D'Angelo, NH ASMP PM, ADS Level 5, and ASA Level 2, Sondra Jones, B.A., B.S.; NH ASMP WT, ASA Level 2 and ADS Level 6, and Sonjia "Sunni" Tainter, M.S.; NH ASMP WT, ADS Level 6, ASA Level 4, and LE Level 3* **Core Knowledge Area:** *Professional Development and Leadership*

Successful Implementation of Choose Love in OST



During this session, Shannon Desilets will share the resources, curriculum, and lessons from the Choose Love Movement, a statewide initiative in social and emotional learning (SEL) programming designed to help the children we serve (and ourselves) to flourish. Then you will have the unique opportunity to hear from a talented panel of NH out of school time directors who have successfully implemented Choose Love into their OST programs! To learn more about the free resources from the Choose Love Movement go to: <https://chooselovemovement.org/education/curriculum-overview/>. **Presenter:** *Shannon Desilets, NH Choose Love Movement and Community Wellness Administrator* **Panel:** *Janail Archer, 21st Century Program Director of the Nashua School District, Janell Davis, 21st Century Site Coordinator, Nashua School District- Dr Crisp, Dee Dee Thurber, Program Manager of Child Care Aware of NH Southern NH Services, Camp Director of Nashua Parks & Recreation, Camp Mine Falls "Choosing Love", Catherine Tenn, Boys and Girls Club- Manchester Girls Ice Hockey, 11th Grade, Manchester High School Central, Tess Sumner, 21st Century Program Site Coordinator in the Newfound School District* **Core Knowledge Area:** *Program Planning and Development*

Got Games? Teaching Board and Tabletop Games to Kids & Why it Matters

Many of our fondest memories of family and friends take place around a table playing games. In the forefront of these memories are laughter, connection, and fun! However, if you look deeper into these memories, you will also recognize the introduction, practice, and mastery of a variety of skills in all developmental domains: physical, social, emotional, and cognitive. In this training, participants will play a variety of games that are guaranteed not only to be fun but will also be linked to opportunities to learn and practice skills that are essential for children to meet their optimum development. Participants will also have the opportunity to share their own best approaches to teaching games to kids and helping kids to teach games to others. **Presenter:** *Abigail Blodgett Argentine, B.S., ACROSS NH SEL Coordinator; NH ASMP WT PM, ADS Level 6, ASA Level 3* **Core Knowledge Area:** *Relationships and Interactions with Children and Youth*

ROUND TABLE LUNCH: 11:00am-12:00pm

Enjoy lunch and take the opportunity to talk with some experts in the OST field ready to share resources and answer questions for YOU! Experts will be on hand for ACROSS NH resources, Afterschool Credential, the School Age Care Environment Rating Scale (SACERS), Granite Steps for Quality (GSQ) in OST, the State of Out of School Time (OST) with Dr. Hilary K. Swank, Plymouth State University, and the Choose Love Movement with Shannon Desilets. Visit every Round Table, get your “**Round Table Lunch Card**” stamped by each expert, and take home an additional gift. Just show your card at the Check In Table as you leave at 3:15pm!

AFTERNOON SESSION A CHOICES (Choose One): 12:00-1:30pm

Team Building Activities to Promote a Positive Workplace

It's all fun and games, really! Be a superhero leader and engage your staff to have fun together and celebrate their successes through fun, games and laughter. Structured teambuilding can help individuals develop stronger relationships with their colleagues, leading to a greater sense of community and camaraderie. Revisit teambuilding favorites and learn new games to spice up your staff trainings, boost morale and promote positivity in your workplace. This session will be active and engaging, individuals will leave with ideas to put into action immediately. **Presenter:** *Sondra Jones, B.A., B.S.; NH ASMP WT, ASA Level 2 and ADS Level 6* **Core Knowledge Area:** *Professional Development and Leadership*

Instant Games- Be a Super Star Staff

Do you know what to do with school age kids when you have unplanned wait time before an activity? What can you do when an activity finishes too quickly? How do you handle when your plans suddenly change, and you need to regroup? Try some instant games! These activities can be done in any out of school time program with little or no props. Instant activity cards and a few props will be the take aways from this training. Join Kathy for some fun and be a super star staff with instant games! **Presenter:** *Kathy Jablonski, M.Ed.; NH ASMP WT, PM, F, IM and LE Level 5* **Core Knowledge Area:** *Learning Environments and Curriculum*

Mental Health and Emotional Wellness in OST: Supporting CHILDREN

This session will provide an overview of child mental health issues, including recent research and best practice strategies for addressing a range of challenges that children experience. Drawing from social, emotional and mindful learning, trauma-informed care, and multi-tiered systems of response, we will discuss how to identify and support children with considerable mental health needs and promote emotional wellness for all children in OST programs. Staff will be encouraged to share recent challenges and explore a variety of strategies and resources in supporting children. **Presenters:** *Rick Alleva, Ed.D.; NH ASMP WT, F, AP and Kendra Lewis, M.S., Ph.D.; NH ASMP WT, F* **Core Knowledge Area:** *Relationships and Interactions with Children and Youth*

AFTERNOON SESSION B CHOICES (Choose One): 1:45-3:15pm

Inspiring Positive Behaviors

In this dynamic and interactive training session, OST professionals will learn strategies to inspire positive behavior through their presence and relationship-building techniques. Participants will explore the profound impact that a nurturing and supportive adult presence can have on children's behavior and overall development. Key topics will include understanding the importance of building strong, positive relationships with children, techniques for creating a welcoming and inclusive environment that encourages positive interactions, and methods for recognizing and reinforcing positive behavior to create a supportive learning atmosphere. **Presenter:** Sonjia “Sunni” Tainter, M.S., ACROSS NH Outreach and Support Coordinator; NH ASMP WT, ADS Level 6, ASA Level 4, and LE Level 3 **Core Knowledge Area:** *Relationships and Interactions with Children and Youth*

Making Math Meaningful by Elevating Youth Voice

As an OST provider, you have a wide range of superpowers. Having a few more tricks up your sleeve though, will certainly help you and your youth soar to new heights. Join this fun hands-on session to learn different strategies to help you make math meaningful and engaging. You will be considered a true Wonderwoman or Superman, when the youth of your programs can be seen and heard talking through math, laughing through activities, and developing life skills. Ultimately, it’s all about elevating youth voices and giving them more opportunities to shine and to ask questions. This engaging session will also give you a glimpse at the FREE resources available and provide you with plenty of opportunities to reflect on practice and connect with your colleagues. **Presenter:** Perrin Chick, B.S., M.Ed.; *STEM Education Specialist/ACRES (Afterschool Coaching for Reflective Educators in STEM) Project Lead* **Core Knowledge Area:** *Learning Environments and Curriculum*

Mental Health and Emotional Wellness in OST: Supporting STAFF

This interactive session will provide staff with strategies to support the mental and emotional wellness of themselves and their colleagues. We will focus on tips and skills, mindful moments to build throughout the day and resources to promote our own wellness. This training will engage in small-group discussions about common scenarios faced while working in OST. Participants will leave with ideas on how to incorporate ways to support staff into their daily workdays. **Presenters:** Kendra Lewis, M.S., Ph.D.; *NH ASMP WT, F* and Rick Alleva, Ed.D.; *NH ASMP WT, F, AP* **Core Knowledge Area:** *Relationships and Interactions with Children and Youth*

MEET OUR PRESENTERS

Rick Alleva

Rick is a trainer and consultant on the ACROSS NH Team. He has a history of leadership in developing community-based education, activity, and intervention programs on behalf of young people and their families, including those experiencing significant personal and social challenges. He provides training and technical assistance in academic enrichment and social/emotional learning topics for afterschool, school, other service providers, and also leads programs for parents and youth as well. Rick worked on UNH Cooperative Extension's Youth & Family Resiliency Team, developing and supporting out-of-school time activities for children across the state, including 4-H and 21st Century Community Learning Centers. He is a certified Youth and Teen Mental Health First Aid instructor and is trained to implement the Mindful Schools curriculum with school aged youth. Rick is especially interested in helping young people express their voice, overcome challenges and experience emotional wellness through mindful, kind, and peaceful practice.

Abigail Blodgett Argentine

Abigail is the Social Emotional Learning (SEL) Coordinator for ACROSS NH. Abigail holds a bachelor's degree from Plymouth State University in Early Childhood Studies and is working toward earning a Master of Arts in Child Study and Human Development at Tufts University. Creating opportunities for youth development professionals to enhance their SEL practice in their programs is Abigail's favorite part of her work with ACROSS NH. In her 19 years of experience, she has worked with children from infants through age 12 in a variety of settings and has engaged adult learners in workshops and trainings on various topics. Engaging children and youth in art and music learning experiences has been one of her key passions in her work. Abigail believes deeply in advocating on behalf of children, youth, families, and the fields of early childhood education and out of school time. In her spare time, she enjoys making and listening to music, staying active, being outdoors, and being with her family, friends, and her beloved terrier mix, Jasper.

Perrin Chick

Perrin joined [Maine Mathematics & Science Alliance \(MMSA\)](#) in 2016. She currently serves as the project lead on the [Afterschool Coaching for Reflective Educators in STEM \(ACRES\)](#) project, which is totally free for educators. Perrin works to connect out-of-school providers to STEM resources through in-person and virtual professional learning. Perrin began her career as a classroom teacher in Lawrence, MA where she taught math and science. She went on to work as the Education Director of Seacoast Science Center located within Odiorne State Park in Rye, NH. Perrin has an undergraduate degree in Environmental Conservation and a Master of Education degree both from UNH, where she focused on integrating technology into informal education.

Natalie D'Angelo

Natalie is an allied professional on the ACROSS NH Team. She is a graduate of Granite State College with a degree in Early Childhood Education. Currently she is the Executive Director of New Morning Schools. Prior to this role, she was the Director of School Age Programs and Licensing Standards for New Morning, directly overseeing the day-to-day operations for 21 before and after-school locations. With a specialized focus on Out-of-School Time (OST) licensing rules, Credentialing, and Granite Steps for Quality, Natalie is passionate about sharing her experiences and successes to support other OST programs. Her commitment to quality programming and her unique insights will help inspire and assist other OST programs in achieving similar goals.

Shannon Desilets

Shannon is the Governor-appointed Program Director of the [Jesse Lewis Choose Love Movement](#) for the State of NH. Her position is now within DHHS, Division for Behavioral Health, and involves outreach and presentations across the state, increasing awareness and integration of the Choose Love Movement to schools, communities, parents, police departments, EMS, universities, youth groups, pediatric offices, hospitals, DHHS/DCYF, Department of Safety, Department of Corrections, and various agencies and organizations across the state. The goal of her work is to improve the well-being and safety of NH's students, families, citizens, and communities, while uniting individuals and professions across the state. She is also an instructor integrating Choose Love into NH's Foster Parent Training, working with the Child Welfare Education Partnership within the University of New Hampshire.

Kathleen Jablonski

Kathy is a trainer and consultant on the ACROSS NH Team. She is retired from a career of working with youth in New York, Maine, and New Hampshire. As a teacher of preschoolers to adults, she has been involved with teaching life skills, working on alternate education and dropout prevention. As a school administrator, she championed afterschool programs in the districts as well as writing grants. As Educator Emeritus of UNH Cooperative Extension, her job responsibilities included recruiting, screening, orienting, training, and supporting volunteers who conduct the 4-H Club and other 4-H delivery methods. Kathy's expertise has provided training in a wide range of curricula and positive youth development to a variety of youth serving organizations and after school providers, specializing in life sciences. Her volunteering background includes: 4-H leader, Girl Scout and Boy Scout leader, women's service club and Rotary International. Kathy earned a master's degree in Adult Education from the University of Maine, Orono.

Sondra Jones

Sondra is a trainer on the ACROSS NH Team. She graduated from Keene State College with degrees in Elementary Education, Music, and Teaching Music to Young Children. She worked in early childhood education and preschool for 15 years before moving into recreation and youth programming for the Town of Waterville Valley Recreation Department. Sondra oversees out-of-school time programming year-round and manages the training and day-to-day operations of staff directly involved in the planning and implementation of youth programs at WVRD. Sondra is a Safe Sitter certified instructor, teaching middle schoolers basic safety, first aid, and skills needed to start babysitting and staying home alone. In her time working with youth and managing staff Sondra has developed a calm, gentle approach to leadership and enjoys sprinkling a bit of humor into the classes that she teaches.

Kendra Lewis

Kendra is a trainer on the ACROSS NH Team. She is a State Specialist for Health & Well-Being at UNH Extension. Her work focuses on coordinating and delivering social, emotional, and mental health programming to NH residents. She has a background in human development, a proficiency in program evaluation, and a passion for social emotional learning and mental wellness. Kendra earned her PhD and MS from Oregon State University in Human Development and Family Studies, and BA from California State University, Chico in Child Development. She has extensive experience in evaluating both school-based and out-of-school-time social-emotional and positive youth development programs. She is a co-author of two mindfulness curricula, Mindful Me (ages 5-8 years old) and Mindful Mechanics (teens and adults).

Sonjia “Sunni” Tainter

Sunni is the Outreach and Support Coordinator for ACROSS NH and an ACROSS NH trainer. She has always had a love and a passion for working with families and children ever since she started working at her home town after school program when she was 19. Ever since then, her career has grown. She holds a Master's degree in Clinical Mental Health Counseling from New England College and has focused her career on helping families access resources. Currently she provides behavioral support to after school programs and helps programs implement SEL curriculum. She has a passion for SEL and enrichment, always putting the child first and unlocking new potentials with the children she works with.