



Arizona Center for **Afterschool** Excellence

"School's Out, Make it Count!"

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Healthy Snack Ideas

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*STEM Educated Workforce
Vital to Arizona's Economy*

Expect More Excellence Tour

Great things are happening in education in Arizona and Expect More Arizona wants people to know about them! That's why they're bringing back the Expect More Excellence Tour - to celebrate the kind of education Arizonans should expect and believe must be available to all students.

They want to hear your stories about excellence in education in Arizona!

The @fterschool advisor

August 19, 2014

Dear Melanie,

AzCASE is honored to announce the **2014 Out-of-School Time Awards of Excellence nominees.**

The annual Out-of-School Time Awards of Excellence Luncheon recognizes innovative out-of-school time programs and staff members for their exemplary work in furthering the delivery of quality youth development programs for Arizona's youth.

Outstanding Out-of-School Professional:

Melissa Jimro (Chandler)
ICAN

Kate Meyer (Tucson)
Our Family Services

Elizabeth Sparks (Tucson)
UA Cooperative Extension/Tucson Village Farm

Outstanding Out-of-School Time Program:

Junior Leadership Academy (Pinetop)

NACA Pathways (Flagstaff)

Pima County JTED, 21st CCLC (Tucson)

Jane Romatzke Leadership Award:

Lupita Hightower, Superintendent (Tolleson)
Tolleson Elementary School District

Michelle Gayles, Asst. Superintendent (Phoenix)
Phoenix Union High School District



The Expect More Excellence Tour is accepting submissions now! [Click here to learn more.](#)

AZ Out-of-School Time Conference

Register for the **2014 Arizona Statewide Out-of-School Time Conference** and **Awards of Excellence Luncheon**.

"School's Out, Make It Count - Engaging Youth in Life and Learning"

will take place on Saturday, November 15th, 2014 from 8:00 a.m. to 3:30 p.m.



Visit our website at www.azafterschool.org or [click here](#) to register your program.

STEM Mini-Grant Application Open

AzCASE and Cox Communications have partnered to award the **2014 STEM Mini-Grants!** The grants, ranging from \$500 to \$1,000, will be awarded to Arizona out-of-school time programs that use creative and innovative methods to incorporate or expand the use of STEM-based learning.

Visit www.azafterschool.org/stem to read the complete grant requirements and application

Formerly with Valley of the Sun United Way

Jay Molberger Child Care Supervisor
(Scottsdale)Scottsdale Unified School District Kids Club

Winners of the 2014 Out-of-School Time Awards of Excellence will receive:

- \$1,000 cash
- Certificate of recognition from Gov. Jan Brewer
- 3 free registrations to AzCASE 2015 trainings
- An engraved award, presented at the 2014 Awards of Excellence Luncheon

Please plan to join us in honoring the **2014 Out-of-School Time Awards of Excellence Finalists** at the **Awards of Excellence Luncheon, Saturday, November 15 at the Phoenix Convention Center!** [Click here for more information.](#)

"LIFT" Your Program To New Heights

The new **Arizona Quality Standards for Out-of-School Time Programs** were designed as a tool to strengthen your program and enable you to better meet the needs of Arizona's youth.

More than **340** out-of-school time programs signed the **Make it Count Pledge** since it was first announced on May 1. Signing the Pledge indicates a program's commitment to using the Arizona Quality Standards for Out-of-School Time Programs as part of their continuous quality improvement process.

The Quality Standards are meant to be used to:

- * Foster a community conversation among parents, educators, program providers and funders about what quality looks like in out-of-school time programs
- * Establish benchmarks for program improvement
- * Identify and develop strategies to address program gaps and maximize impact
- * Encourage and expand partnerships where needed
- * Determine effective resource allocation in budgeting and program planning
- * Promote individual program strengths to families.

process.

Deadline for submission is **Friday, September 12, 2014**. For more information, please contact Melanie McClintock at 480.730.7126 or [click here](#).



Job Opportunity!

Valley of the Sun United Way has various new positions available and is currently accepting resumes.

Provide leadership and management to position Valley of the Sun United Way as a community impact leader.

[Click here to view job opportunities.](#)

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potential funders and community partners

The Quality Standards are the first of a three part continuous quality improvement process:

1. Adoption of the Arizona Quality Standards
2. Implementation of the Quality Assessment Tool (available later this year)
3. Participation in a Quality Professional Development System

Demonstrate your commitment to quality and the youth you serve by adopting the standards and signing the Make It Count Pledge. Make It Count programs "**LIFT**" - **Learn, Implement, Fine-Tune and Teach** - their programs to new heights of quality using the Arizona Quality Standards.

Hundreds of programs across Arizona have already signed the pledge. What are you waiting for?

[Click here to sign today](#) and receive Make It Count posters, in English and Spanish, to display at your site.



Visit www.azafterschool.org to see the Make It Count programs you'll be joining in the quest for quality.

2014 Arizona Out-of-School Time Advocate Results Are In!



Throughout the past six weeks, AzCASE reached out to candidates across the state, and asked them to **pledge their support for Arizona Out-of-School Time youth programs**. We are very excited to share the results.

Candidates for Congress were asked to complete a three-question survey, regarding their support for:

- * The Child Care and Development Fund (CCDF)
- * 21st Century Community Learning Centers, and
- * The Supporting Afterschool STEM Act

We received responses from candidates in 7 districts, including Rep. Ann Kirkpatrick, Rep. Ron Barber, Rep. Raúl Grijalva, Rep. Kyrsten Sinema, and every candidate running in District 7. Go to azafterschool.org/2014survey for the results and quotes from the candidates.

Candidates for the State Legislature, as well as Superintendent of Public Instruction, were asked to sign the **Arizona Out-of-School Time Pledge**, and become Arizona Out-of-School Time Advocates. **28 Legislative Candidates** representing 15 Districts, as well as Superintendent for Public Instruction Candidate David Garcia, signed on as Arizona Out-of-School Time Advocates. The full list is available here: azafterschool.org/advocates

We encourage you to review each candidate's response and support for out-of-school time programs when deciding how to vote in both the upcoming primary and general elections.

Finally, our [2014 Election Page](#) is a hub of information for Arizona voters. Learn how to register to vote, request an early ballot, and vote in the Primary. Check out non-partisan voter resources, and upcoming candidate forums and debates.

Thank you for your support of AzCASE happenings and all you do for Arizona's youth!

Sincerely,

Melanie, Franny, Angelica & Caitlin
The AzCASE Team

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