



Arizona Center for **Afterschool** Excellence *"School's Out, Make it Count!"*

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*Creating 'Safe' School
Cultures to Prevent
Bullying*

*Four Ways to Enhance
Orientation for New Staff*

*Arizona Co-op Boosts
Skills of Rural Students*

Improving Parent Engagement for Refugee Families

A new report has come out from the **Migration Policy Institute** stressing the importance of reaching out to refugee and immigrant populations to engage parents in Early Childhood programs.



We know the importance of parental involvement, but the Adult Education literacy programs upon which we used to rely to improve literacy in English have been dwindling.

The @fterschool advisor

July 16, 2014

Dear Melanie,

AzCASE and Cox Communications are excited to invite Arizona out-of-school time programs to apply for mini-grants to **create new or expanded ways to incorporate science, technology, engineering, and math (STEM) based learning** in out-of-school time programming.

Grants ranging from \$500 to \$1,500 will be funded based on the quality and impact of the proposed programs.

Research shows American students lag behind their international peers in STEM fields despite the global need for innovation and mastery in those areas. Quality out-of-school time programs are experiential, learning environments that have more creative latitude to introduce youth to engaging STEM concepts than many classroom settings. The opportunities are endless!

The goal of these grants is for staff **AND** youth to brainstorm what might be done with STEM in your program that's not happening now or how to grow and enhance an existing STEM program.

Check out the **[STEM resources on the AzCASE website](#)** and learn how other AZ out-of-school time programs **[used their STEM mini-grants in 2013](#)**.

Anything is possible! Programs are only limited by their collective imaginations. ***For eligibility requirements and application information, click here.***

The costs of funding translation services can be beyond the means of most Early Childhood program providers, ***so new strategies and funding sources need to be developed*** to make the programs sustainable.

Learn more and download the full report on their website by ***clicking here.***

Register Today for the AZ Out-of-School Time Conference!



"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. You can also "reserve" your spots today and submit attendee information in the fall!

What are you waiting for? [Register today!](#)

Job Opportunity

Achievement Learning, a growing tutoring and academic services company, is currently seeking a Regional Director of Aftercare Programs.

[Click here for full job description.](#)

Interested applicants please contact Anne Ackroyd at 480-247-2070.

[AzCASE](#)

Resources

Upcoming Events

AZ Afterschool Directory



Youth in the Catalina Foothills Community Schools before/after school CARE program learn to research, design and create "pressure rockets" using everyday objects (2013).

Make Your Vote Count in August!

Many state and Congressional legislative districts are drawn in a way that are favorable to one of the two major parties. This makes the outcome of the November election almost a foregone conclusion. Because of this, ***the REAL election to decide representatives happens in August.***

Because voter turnout in August is historically low, a small number of people have great power to shift the outcome of this year's election.

Independent voters are able to vote in the primary elections for one party. **The Children's Action Alliance** has the ***directions posted on their website*** explaining how you vote.



Recognize Non-Traditional Ways of Learning with Digital Badges

As we find new and innovative ways to engage students in learning, we need ways to assess and document student performance beyond standardized testing. The use of **digital badges** has recently emerged as a way to recognize non-traditional ways of learning and to give credit for the skills students and educators acquire in formal and informal learning environments.

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What is a digital badge?

It is an online record of an accomplishment, skill, quality or interest that can be earned in any learning setting. Digital badges have been used to set goals, motivate behaviors, represent achievements and communicate success.



Why Use Digital Badges in Afterschool?

In his recent post "**Digital Badges - Taking Learning Seriously**," Sam Piha from Learning in Afterschool discussed the use of digital badges and why it's important for the afterschool and summer program movement:

- 1. Learning accountability.** The development and use of digital badges require program leaders to be specific about the ways in which students can earn each badge, such as required attendance, skills or behaviors.
- 2. Validation.** Digital badges help to define the learning that takes place in programs, which also provides visible evidence that afterschool and summer programs take learning seriously.
- 3. Extrinsic motivation.** The awarding of digital badges provides students an artifact that documents their learning achievements and can be shared with friends, future employers and higher learning institutions.

Digital badges are great tools for encouraging innovative, student-centered learning in afterschool. To get started, check out **Open Badges**, free online software to create, issue and verify digital badges.

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

Sincerely,

Melanie, Franny, Angelica & Caitlin
The AzCASE Team

★ **Arizona Center for Afterschool Excellence** ★
480.730.7126 ★ 3205 S. Rural Rd. ★ Tempe, AZ 85282
★ info@azafterschool.org ★ www.azafterschool.org