



Arizona Center for Afterschool Excellence

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In the Fall of 2013, Arizona Center for Afterschool Excellence and Valley of the Sun United Way released the first ever **Arizona Quality Standards for Out-of-School Time Programs** intended to foster continuous improvement in out-of-school time programs across the state.

Phase II of Arizona's Quality Improvement Process, will be the development of an **assessment tool** programs can

January 15, 2014

the @fterschool advisor

Dear Melanie,

Today's diverse youth are too often at risk and misunderstood. "**Safety and Inclusion for All Youth**" professional development is essential to helping your out-of-school time staff become culturally competent, responsive, and promote respect among all youth served.

Schools and out-of-school time programs should serve as inclusive, supportive environments for all young people. Yet, transgender and gender nonconforming youth may be subjected to **harassment**, **bullying**, and even **violence**, in places where they are supposed to feel safe.

This workshop will shed a light on issues related to gender and gender expression and provide the knowledge, skills, and tools necessary for **educators and out-of-school time providers** to ensure that their classroom and/or program is a safe, inclusive, and respectful environment for all youth.

Topics in this interactive, research-based training, **presented by "bob" Maureen**, include:

- Terms and definitions
- Difference between sexual orientation and

inexpensively and internally adopt to further identify and refine program strengths and areas of improvement.

A statewide **committee** of providers, educators, and youth development specialists will convene on **Friday, January 31st** to begin working on the statewide tool that will align with the standards. The committee is expected to meet throughout the Winter and Spring in hopes of having a recommended tool by early Fall.



Jobs

United Way of Tucson and Southern Arizona is now seeking a full-time Opportunity Youth Director.

Click here for more details.

gender identity

- Working with and strengthening families
- Official records
- Name and pronouns
- Addressing bullying, harassment, and discrimination
- Gender segregated areas and activities (bathrooms, locker rooms, sports, etc.)
- Dress code
- Transition (student transitions male to female or female to male)

Click here for more information.

U.S. Mayors Support High Quality Out-of-School Time Programming

Mayors from across the country voice their support for quality out-of-school time programs in a new video entitled "**Afterschool**", recently released by the Institute of Youth, Education, and Families, at the National League of Cities.

Hear mayors and councilmembers detail the importance of accessible out-of-school time opportunities, as they pertain to the success, safety, and vibrancy of American cities.

While Arizona mayors may not directly preside over the school districts in their cities, they are concerned that youth graduate from their schools prepared to fill the jobs needed by local employers. Quality out-of-school time programs are yet another tool cities can use to connect the formal learning in the classroom to the informal learning that occurs out of school.

Watch this influential video and send it to your mayors and councilmembers asking them to rethink how their leadership and engagement can better transform quality out-of-school time opportunities for youth in your city.



Global Youth Service Day

The Governor's Youth Commission is connecting with schools and youth organizations to address the community's most **critical issues**, such as hunger, education, human rights, health and more!

(GYSD) is asking all youth to organize a **service project** in their community or join a project already taking place on April 11-13.

To find or register a service project, click here!

Afterschool in the News

- "Role Models Matter" Forum for Educators

- "Social & Emotional Learning Challenge" Award Now Available!

- Mobile App Creation Workshop for Arizona High School Students

Click here to watch (6:44 min)

Learning Lounge at Grand Canyon University

On the surface, the Learning Lounge at Grand Canyon University in Phoenix is an afterschool tutoring center that employs University students to provide extra help in Math and English to high school students. Come inside, though, and you will find the purpose that has been demonstrated over the past decade by GCU and its president and CEO, Brian Mueller.

Open weekdays from 3-8 p.m., the Learning Lounge offers students free one-on-one tutoring from 30 of GCU's top students in a relaxed and safe environment on the main campus. Oversized chairs, couches, shelves filled with books, and educational games add to the "lounge feel" of the program, and students are served a nutritious meal each day, courtesy of St. Mary's Food Bank in Phoenix. The tutors, dressed in purple polo shirts and eager to greet the students, have the energy, motivation and academic integrity necessary to remediate or enrich the high school students. More importantly, the tutors also have a passion to serve others while showing a huge heart for the Lord.

Working hand-in-hand with Phoenix Union High School District and its superintendent, Dr. Kent Scribner, and Claudio Coria, principal of Alhambra High, GCU provides the tutors with professional development opportunities from experts at the University and at Alhambra High. With this approach, the tutors are able to instruct the students with the same effective instructional practices that are offered at their high school.

Currently, more than 175 Alhambra students have been tutored at the Learning Lounge since its grand opening in September. The word is spreading that they will get homework help, good food, and chances to

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establish healthy relationships with college student mentors who are their peers. Whether they are reviewing for an upcoming test, mastering new content, finding time for a quick game of checkers or envisioning themselves as college students, the teens are taking full advantage of the experiences provided.

The Learning Lounge at Grand Canyon University is more than a tutoring center. It provides a full range of experiences to each and every student who visits, giving them the potential to fulfill their academic, social and emotional needs.

Thank you for your continued support of everything we do at **Arizona Center for Afterschool Excellence!**

Sincerely,

Melanie, Franny, & Angelica
The AzCASE Team

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