High-quality out-of-school time programs play an important role in the lives of our nation’s young people by offering youth additional opportunities for positive experiences that support the development of important skills, attitudes, and behaviors. OST programs can be a key lever for community and local system leaders to help reverse longstanding inequities, but the lack of robust, comprehensive funding is often a barrier to program expansion and quality improvement efforts in:

1) Creating and Sustaining Equitable Conditions for Learning
2) Preparing for Program Delivery
3) Building and Aligning Ecosystems of Support

The Wallace Foundation’s federal funding stream guide identifies providers, districts, summer and afterschool intermediaries, municipal government leaders, and state government leaders OST organizations can tap to support equitable access to high-quality programs. This tool distinguishes specific actions and considerations OST program
leaders, school district officials, and local government agencies can keep in mind as they design summer and afterschool learning programs for young people.

The National AfterSchool Association and the Wallace Foundation will be hosting the OST Funding Guide webinar on Tuesday, May 16, 2023, at 2 PM EST.

Register [here](http://ow.ly/hFGl50NMnYZ) to attend the webinar and visit the [Funding Tool](http://ow.ly/hFGl50NMnYZ) page to learn more.

Dr. Shawn Ginwright, Dr. Lee Porscha Moore and Jane Lee advise out-of-school time professionals on Healing Centered Engagement on The CARMA Chronicles podcast, hosted by Flourish Agenda.

http://ow.ly/hFGl50NMnYZ

Take a look at our Pathway to Accreditation by the numbers:

- 10 Guides supporting programs
- 35 Sites in the program
- 8 sites that have applied for accreditation

Interested in learning how you can get on the Pathway? [CLICK HERE](http://ow.ly/hFGl50NMnYZ) to visit our webpage/fill out an interest form
WELCOME AJ RICE
Programs Assistant

Being a former foster kid himself, AJ Rice understands very well the importance of helping children. From 2018 to 2021, AJ did a lot of different things from event organization to performing. He also loves to help people, which is what brought him to work at AZCASE as a Programs Assistant. He works around the office doing a myriad of tasks that help everyone work efficiently. He loves to play video games and listen to music in his free time.

WELCOME AMBER FOLKMAN
STEM Specialist Partner

Amber Folkman is the Manager of School Relationships and Impact for the SARSEF team. She loves engaging with SARSEF’s young learners by facilitating science and engineering-based workshops which lay a foundation for a scientific mindset of lifelong learners.

Amber brings a global and multi-cultural experience to her work at SARSEF. Her education career began with a bachelor’s degree in special education from a small university in Hawaii and continued for the next decade teaching in Washington, Utah, Manila, Philippines, Texas, and now Arizona. While in Manila, she taught at Korean International School of the Philippines and International School Manila, which represented over 52 countries. She was involved in several dignified outreach programs to create equitable support for mothers and children in economically disadvantaged urban communities. Amber also ran a social media company to support place attachment, a concept in environmental psychology that defines a relationship between a person and a place. Her work helped foreign and local community members love where they live. Since relocating to Arizona in 2021 she has found her home in STEM education and bringing opportunity to all. Amber has a firm belief that young people have the power and ability to make their world a better place now.