

# 2021-2022 Annual Report

Arizona Center for Afterschool  
Excellence



# WELCOME FROM OUR DIRECTOR



Like most of you we at Arizona Center for Afterschool Excellence (AzCASE) we are happy to leave 2020 behind us and start our journey back to our new normal. Our biggest excitement this year was a return to an in person School's Out Make It Count Conference. While our group was slightly smaller than previous years everyone there brought such a great energy. We were so grateful to have people together again.

After our tough financial year last year we are pleased to have secured grant funding to help with recovery. This windfall has allowed us to not only overcome last year's challenges but to finally fully launch our accreditation program as the final step of our Quality Initiative. So many programs have joined us in their quest for continuous quality improvement that we are grateful for the financial support to be able to add this opportunity for all OST programs who serve school-aged youth.

Thank you to all of the community for supporting us in so many ways over the years and staying with us through the tough times. We can't wait to see what the future will bring!

**Courtney Sullivan**  
Executive Director

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# ABOUT US

## ARIZONA CENTER FOR AFTERSCHOOL EXCELLENCE

The Arizona Center for Afterschool Excellence (AzCASE) is a nonprofit organization dedicated to the enhancement of child and youth development and educational achievement through quality out-of-school time programming. Our vision is for out-of-school time programs to flourish in Arizona, sharing a fundamental commitment to the promotion of high-level personal educational achievement and adherence to performance standards and assessment of outcomes. We envision that all Arizona children and youth will be actively engaged in life and prepared for successful young adulthood. In support of these ends, AzCASE is a statewide resource and advocacy center for out-of-school time programming.

## WHY DOES IT MATTER?

Because young people spend 80% of their waking hours outside of school, the Arizona Center for Afterschool Excellence is dedicated to improving public awareness and support for learning and personal development in those out-of-school hours. AzCASE serves as a hub for advocacy, public awareness, collaboration and partnerships to advance out-of-school time programming using the following strategies on behalf of youth and families in Arizona.

## OUR MISSION

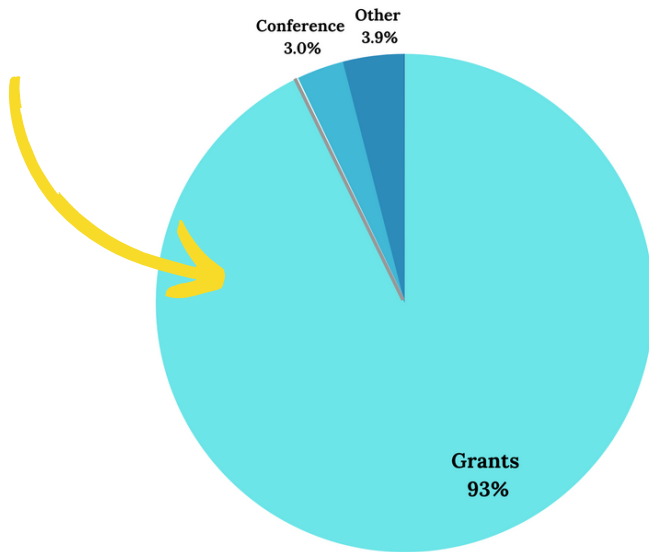
To improve access to high quality, accessible and affordable out-of-school learning opportunities for all Arizona children and youth by serving as the pre-eminent source or professional development, advocacy and community capacity building in the out-of-school time community.

## OUR VISION

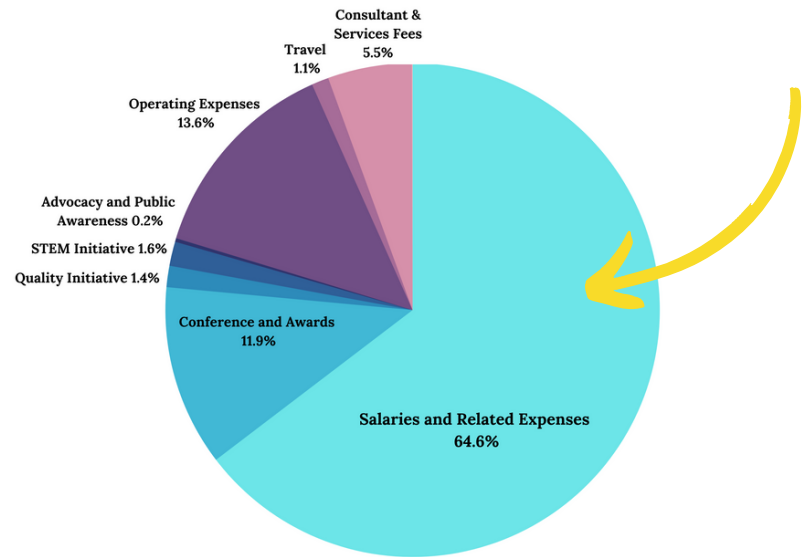
Arizona children & youth are actively engaged in their own learning and prepared to be career and college ready.

# Fiscal Year 2021-2022 Financials

## INCOME



## EXPENSES



\*The AzCASE statewide afterschool network model is designed for AzCASE to be a resource and advocacy center that works with and through partners statewide to expand the availability and quality of out-of-school time programs. As a result, a larger percentage of our annual budget is spent on salaries and benefits than a traditional direct services provider.

## STEM GRANTS

AzCASE distributed 8 grants to out-of-school time programs for Science, Technology, Engineering and Math (STEM) projects. The intent of the AzCASE STEM Grants is to foster the expansion and implementation of best practices in STEM informal learning. Grants ranged from \$500 to \$1,500 and were awarded to K-12 programs spanning the state.



11  
Grants  
Awarded

\$14,951.00  
Grand  
Total

# YEAR AT A GLANCE

## Educational Trainings | Spring 2022

22

Participants

13

Organizations

8

Counties

60

Hours of Training



## Quality Initiative

In order to improve quality within Out-of-School program's, AzCASE has taken on initiatives to better serve the community. In the upcoming year, AzCASE will be creating a new resource hub with updated resources in a variety of different topics. We will also be updating our Trainer Network where we can provide on demand training both in person and virtually. Lastly we are creating new courses based off of high demand areas that will be found in our new Learning Management System.



# SIGNATURE EVENTS

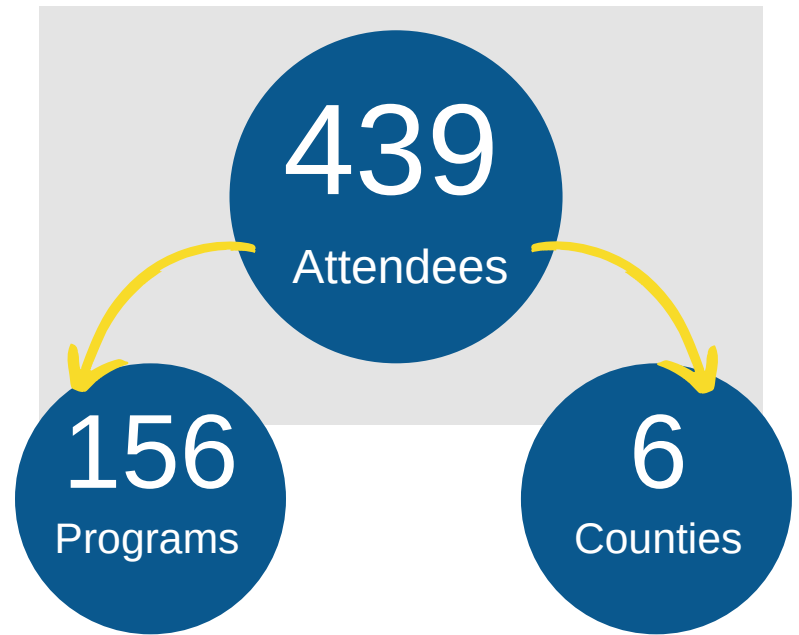
## Annual Conference

### School's Out, Make It Count Conference

The AzCASE Annual Out-of-School Time Conference - School's Out, Make It Count - is the only statewide conference solely focused on professionally preparing out-of-school time (OST) staff to fully engage and prepare Arizona's youth for life and learning. The 2022 OST Conference was held at the Phoenix Convention Center on Saturday, October 22, and featured 23 unique workshops, a Keynote Address from Dr. Tony Smith, and exhibits from 205 local organizations and vendors.



**October 22, 2022 at the  
Phoenix Convention Center**



**30**  
Exhibitors

**43**  
Workshops

**Keynote Speaker**  
**Dr. Tony Smith**  
CEO of Whyspeople



## Conference Sponsors

Alliant International University  
Collaborative Communications  
Mad Science of N.E. Phoenix  
The Walking Classroom Institute  
Grace Ministries (Peer Mediation Kits)

RATATAZ, Inc.  
GenTech Support  
Stossel in the Classroom  
Million Girls Moon Shot  
The Be Kind People Project

Stiix  
Achieve3000  
SARSEF  
Cox Campus  
GCON

# SIGNATURE EVENTS

## Awards of Excellence

### Out-Of-School Time Awards of Excellence

#### Innovative Practices Award of Excellence

Winner - Youth & Government State  
Advocacy Day - YMCA



#### Melanie McClintock Leadership Award of Excellence

Winner - Patrick McFaddin



#### Out-of-School Time New Staff Award of Excellence

Winner - Mat Weddle



#### Out-of-School Time Professional Award of Excellence

Winner - Kari Taylor



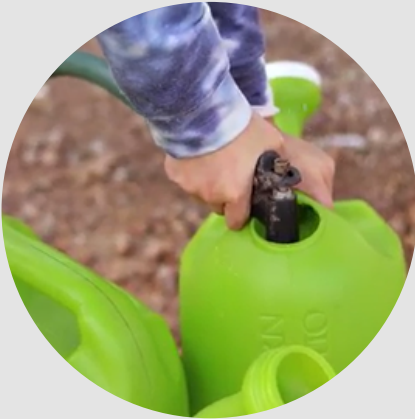
# SIGNATURE EVENTS

## Awards of Excellence

### Out-Of-School Time Awards of Excellence

#### Out-of-School Time Program Award of Excellence

Winner - G Road Gardening and  
Sustainability



#### Out-of-School Time Quality Award of Excellence

Winner - Future for Kids



## Finalists

#### Innovative Practices Award of Excellence

DeGrazia Elementary 21st CCLC

#### Melanie McClintock Leadership Award of Excellence

Annie Ansell

#### Out-of-School Time New Staff Award of Excellence

Isaiah Teran

#### Out-of-School Time Professional Award of Excellence

Harry Standring

#### Out-of-School Time Program Award of Excellence

Metropolitan Youth Symphony



# KEY ACHIEVEMENTS for OST

→ Reinstated the annual 'Make It Count' Conference in-person

→ Officially launched the Pathway to Accreditation

→ Increased funding streams to add government grants and contracts

→ Served more youth in more areas of the state through our Continuous Quality Improvement (trainings, the conference and the Pathway)



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