

The Afterscoop

Special points of interest

- Conference, Summit, and Fundraiser highlights!
- Over 20 programs involved in Great Science for Girls!
- Featured programs in Baltimore City and Montgomery County!
- Funding for STEM work statewide!

Inside this issue:

<i>Conference, Summit, and Fundraiser</i>	2
<i>Plans for Professional Development and Technical Assistance</i>	3
<i>Updates about HIV Prevention</i>	3
<i>Montgomery County Updates and Events</i>	4
<i>Community School Updates</i>	5
<i>CBASS Updates</i>	5
<i>Baltimore City Featured Program—BUGS</i>	6
<i>Montgomery County Featured Program—Arts on the Block</i>	7
<i>Research News, STEM Statewide, Martinsville</i>	8
<i>TASI Staff</i>	8

Letter from the Executive Director

Dear friends and supporters,

Welcome to another year of after-school! It's been a busy and exciting few months—since we last met, TASI held its Fifth Annual Eastern Regional Conference, Maryland HIV Prevention Youth Summit, “The Keys to Success” (TASI’s Second Annual Fundraiser and Tenth Anniversary Celebration), Montgomery County’s Second Annual “Preparing Staff to Work with Immigrant Youth Symposium,” a two-day Great Science for Girls professional development institute, trained 100 youth and 18 youth workers in the Becoming A Responsible Teen (BART) curriculum, and much much more.

TASI has also spent quite a bit of time in the past few months conducting focus group discussions and analyzing survey results about Network Meetings, the Conference, the Baltimore Community Schools Initiative, the Executive Director Leadership Circles, AYD, and other items related to the youth work field. As we have started planning for this coming year, the results of all of these evaluations and discussions have been at the forefront of our minds. We are excited about what we have planned—and what we are still in the process of planning—and welcome your feedback to help us continuously improve over the course of the year.

Again, welcome to another year of after-school. I know it will be both an exciting year and a challenging one, as the economy continues to limit funding amounts and opportunities. I am confident, however, that if we continue to work together, we can continue to improve the quality of after-school programming in Baltimore, Montgomery County, Martinsville, and beyond.

Thank you for your support,
Rebkha Atnafou



Messages from TASI's supporters, on display at the “The Keys to Success” fundraiser

Upcoming Baltimore Events

TASI is in the process of finalizing its professional development calendar based on evaluation data received from last year’s participants. Please stay tuned! A full calendar will be made available in September, 2009.

Here’s what we do know:

August Network Meeting:
8/25, 9:00—11:00 a.m.

AYD Training of Facilitators: 9/17 and 9/18

Advancing Youth Development (AYD): Fall—November 2nd, 4th, 6th, 9th, and 11th. Spring—March 1st, 3rd, 5th, 8th, and 10th.

Executive Director Leadership Circles: 9/11, 11/13, 1/8, 3/12, 5/7

Senior Management Leadership Circles: 9/29, 11/24, 2/23, 4/27

Maryland AYD Reunion: 6/11

Conference 2009 – Highlights

On May 5th and 6th, 2009, TASI hosted the Fifth Annual Eastern Regional Conference on After-School. The conference featured numerous sponsors and co-sponsors during the two-day event. The theme was “Integrating Practices of After-School, Community Schools, and Mentoring.”

“The one most impressive aspect of the Conference is that the presenters of the workshops/symposiums were very engaging and well-informed”
-Conference survey response

TASI has recently received an evaluation report from the Out-of-School Time Resource Center at the University of Pennsylvania (OSTRC), the evaluators of the conference. Overall, the data were extremely positive. Respondents learned new knowledge and skills, felt the Conference content was relevant to their work, had plenty of opportunities to network, and will most likely attend the Sixth Annual Conference in 2010.

Presenters at the conference felt they were organized, well-prepared, created safe and respectful learning environments, and addressed participants’ questions.

Here are some highlights from the Conference evaluations:

- Survey respondents rated their level of satisfaction with the conference as 4.1 out of 5.
- Survey participants rated their level of satisfaction with the workshops/symposiums as 4.5.
- 91% would recommend the conference to a colleague

TASI would like to thank everyone who helped make the Conference a success—volunteers, presenters, participants, and exhibitors, among others. TASI would like to extend a special thank you to the conference co-sponsors and partial co-sponsors: Mayor Sheila Dixon and the Baltimore City Council; Montgomery County Collaboration Council for Children, Youth, and Families; United Way of Southeastern Pennsylvania; Maryland State Department of Education; Concerned Black Men—National Organization; DC Children and Youth Investment Trust Corporation; East Baltimore Development Inc.—Elev8; Enterprise Community Partners; and Martinsville Henry County After 3.

See the newsletter insert for pictures from Conference 2009!

Maryland HIV Prevention Youth Summit – Highlights

Over 200 youth, youth workers, and parents from across the state attended the 2009 Maryland HIV Prevention Youth Summit. The Summit was held on June 19th at the Radisson Cross Keys Hotel.

The Summit included two panel discussions, workshops, entertainment, exhibits, and a group graffiti art project. The first panel focused on abstinence, and the second

panel was made up of youth who are HIV positive, sharing their experiences living with the disease. Workshops gave youth opportunities to discuss topics



“Prevention” graffiti art at the 2009

such as relationships after HIV, self-esteem, STDs, and discrimination. All workshops were highly rated. Asked what was most valuable about the workshop, one participant responded

“The free condoms, the helpful information, the one on one conversation, the tips, and engaging participation. I loved it a lot and learned a lot.”

The graffiti art project gave youth participants a chance to send a message about prevention. The final product will be displayed at the Infectious Disease and Environmental Health Administration (formerly the Maryland AIDS Administration), and will be part of a World AIDS Day display on December 1st.

“The Keys to Success”

On June 26th, TASI held its second annual fundraiser and tenth anniversary celebration—“The Keys to Success.” Nearly 75 people attended the event, held at the Radisson Cross Keys Hotel.

TASI would like to thank everyone who helped make the event a success. Thank you to:



Deputy Mayor Salima Siler Marriott, speaking at “The Keys to Success”

Deputy Mayor Salima Siler Marriott, for her continuous support, attending the event, and wonderful remarks; all of the businesses and organizations that donated items for the silent auction and raffle; the three performers, Monique Lynn, Sujay Pathak, and

Mark Davis; everyone who bought a table, ticket, or made a donation; and everyone who volunteered at the event.

If you couldn’t make it to the fundraiser but still want to support TASI, donations can always be sent to us at: 600 Reisterstown Road, Suite 512 Baltimore, MD 21208.

See you at next year’s fundraiser!

Professional Development – What’s Coming Up

TASI is excited about another exciting year of professional development opportunities in Baltimore! While our plans are not yet finalized, here is what you should tentatively expect in the upcoming year:

Network Meetings: Network Meetings are opportunities to connect with other programs, meet community resources, and learn about promising practices both locally and nationally. The first Network Meeting of the Year, with the theme “Back to After-School,” will be held on Tuesday,



“Building with wonderful junk” at the GSG professional development institute—see page 5 for more details

August 25th.

Training Institutes: TASI will hold two or three Training Institutes over the course of this year, most likely on BCPSS professional development days. Training Institutes are mini-conferences that include workshops for both frontline staff and senior management/Executive Directors. Training Institutes will focus on specific core competencies, and continue to build on last year’s topics: human relationships and project-based learning.

Advancing Youth Development (AYD) and Supervising Youth Development Practice (SYDP): In September, TASI will be holding a training for individuals interested in becoming AYD facilitators. This training will be open to past AYD participants. TASI also has two sessions of AYD scheduled for this year—one in November and one in March—and is working to finalize dates for a session of SYDP for supervisors/coordinators whose frontline staff have been through AYD.

Sixth Annual Eastern Regional Conference on After-School: TASI’s Sixth Annual Conference will most likely take place in May, 2010.

A finalized training calendar will be made available as soon as possible—stay tuned for more information!

Technical Assistance – What’s Coming Up

TASI will continue to use the Youth Program Quality Assessment (YPQA) tool to conduct technical assistance site visits this year. Site visits will be conducted for new programs and programs recommended by the Family League.

The YPQA tool was developed by High/Scope and the Center for Youth Program Quality, based at the University of Michigan. It is a research-based observation instrument that is focused on

helping programs examine their strengths and weaknesses, with the understanding that it is a process of continuous improvement.

TASI’s site visit protocol includes a pre-interview, a site visit, creating a plan for improvement, and conducting a

follow-up site visit a few months later. Site visits ideally use a team approach, with two or three people from the program taking part.

“The observation instrument is very helpful. It’s sort of an ‘on-going’ check list to assure us, remind us, and encourage us to provide a quality program.”
-YPQA site visit recipient

As always, technical assistance site visits and other supports are available upon request. Contact Rebekah Lin at rlin@afterschoolinstitute.org or 410.580.0750, ext. 206 for any technical assistance needs.

HIV Prevention – Updates and What’s Coming Up

Over the course of this summer, TASI has trained 53 youth leaders from Baltimore Youth Apprenticeship Program (BYAP) and 40 Youth Ambassadors from various city agencies in the Becoming A Responsible Teen (BART) curriculum. An additional 50 youth and staff were trained at a summer leadership program managed by PIP. All trained youth and staff received

certification to become trainers on the BART curriculum.

This upcoming year, TASI is available to train youth and youth workers in HIV prevention. In addition to keeping BART part of AYD youth worker certification trainings, TASI has trained youth

professionals and youth leaders to conduct these trainings. Trainings can be either condensed “HIV Prevention 101” sessions, or the complete BART curriculum.



92Q providing entertainment at the HIV Prevention Youth Summit

Contact TASI at 410.580.0750 or info@afterschoolinstitute.org to learn more.

Montgomery County – Event Updates

Several Montgomery County program providers attended the Fifth Annual Eastern Regional Conference on After-School, held in Baltimore on May 5th and 6th. They participated in nearly 30 different workshops and symposiums, three keynote speakers, state networking meetings, exhibits, and more.

The Second Annual Excel Beyond the Bell Symposium took place on May 20th at the Universities at Shady Grove. County Executive Isiah Leggett spoke during the lunch session, and participants enjoyed a variety of workshops and presenters.

On June 12th, after-school program providers from across the county met for an informative networking breakfast. Participants learned about the after-

school snack and summer food service programs from a representative from the school system, and enjoyed a spirited presentation and discussion by Scholastic about their summer reading program.

On June 29th and 30th, forty youth workers and youth leaders from throughout the county attended a two-day symposium titled “Preparing Staff to Work with Immigrant Youth.” This second annual event included training by Rebkha Atnafou and Pam Wilson, the author of the “Preparing Staff to Work with Immigrant Youth” guidebook.

“I think the most valuable aspect was the discussion youth connection to youth workers, because most youth really need someone they could reach out to or someone they can be themselves around.”
-Symposium participant

In addition to in depth training on the guidebook, there was a youth panel and a youth service providers panel. The youth service providers panel including a school principal, an after-school program provider, a mental health provider, staff from the Maryland State Department of Education, and staff from the Maryland Multicultural Center. Panelists provided their perspectives on working with immigrant youth in a variety of educational and youth development settings.

Participants also completed worksheets and action plans to take back to their programs.

Montgomery County – Quality Standards Updates

Over the course of the past year, various trainings and events in Montgomery County have focused on introducing the Quality Standards and Core Competencies that have been developed so far. The current categories are health, safety, and human relationships.

In the late spring and early summer, a small group of program providers worked on quality standards and core competencies in three new areas—learning

opportunities, programming, and administration, based on a review of standards from around the country. The term “learning opportunities” was chosen to reinforce the idea that learning happens in all sorts of settings and during all sorts of activities; while academics are obviously a large part of learning opportunities, activities related to learning from others, developing personal and social skills, etc., should also be considered “learning opportunities” that are part of quality

programming. Programming includes program design and features, and administration includes topics such as professional development, supervision, and staffing.

If you are interested in giving feedback on existing quality standards and core competencies, or assisting in developing the new ones, contact Rebkha Atnafou at ratnafou@afterschoolinstitute.org.

Upcoming Events

Advancing Youth Development (AYD) Training of Facilitators: *September 17th and 18th*

AYD, Fall Session: *October 14th, 15th, 16th, 28th, and 29th*

AYD, Spring Session: *January 20th, 21st, 22nd, February 3rd and 4th*

Supervising Youth Development Practice: *April 14th, 15th, and 16th*

Maryland AYD Reunion: *June 11th*

Congratulations!

This summer’s SYDP graduates:

Jewell Lyons, *Montgomery County Recreation Department*

Jaracus Copes, *New Destiny, LLC*

John Quarless, *Montgomery County Recreation Department*

Elizabeth Ortega-Lohmeyer, *Montgomery County Recreation Department*

Richard Staton, *Benjamin Banneker Honors Math & Science*

Jacilyn Smith, *Community Bridges*

Great Science for Girls – Updates

Over the course of last year, six after-school programs in Baltimore participated in Great Science for Girls (GSG). GSG is an initiative of the Educational Equity Center at the Academy for Educational Development, with funding from the National Science Foundation. It aims to increase interest and persistence in STEM (science/technology/engineering/math) among girls and other traditionally underrepresented groups. Last year's programs implemented the After-School Science PLUS curriculum, worked with professors from Johns Hopkins University, and submitted science projects to the 4-H Youth Expo.



GSG training participants

On August 6th and 7th, 17 people attended a two-day professional development institute on GSG with the national trainers. The GSG training is not just a curriculum training, but a chance for participants to have in depth discussions about gender and racial equity in the STEM fields, and what types of resources, support, and encouragement youth need to succeed in STEM subjects.

By the start of this upcoming school year, fifteen new sites—twelve in Baltimore City and three in Montgomery County—will have been trained in GSG and ready to start implementing it in their after-school programs.

TASI and the GSG sites have high hopes for this upcoming year. There are a variety of ways that you and others in the community can help us turn our plans into reality. We are looking for:

- Volunteers to serve as “STEM Mentors” with all of the GSG sites
- Businesses to donate supplies for activities/experiments
- Local museums and other institutions to partner with sites for field trips and other activities

If you or anyone you know is interested in helping GSG, contact Rebekah Lin at rlin@afterschoolinstitute.org.

TASI is also working with Baltimore City 4-H and the GSG programs to plan an event for 4-H's National Science Day on October 7th. Stay tuned for more details!

Community Schools – Updates

In the past few months, the Citywide Coordinating Council (CWCC) for the Baltimore Community Schools Initiative has created a working definition for community schools in Baltimore City, as well as a model of “Community Resource Center Schools” that will continue to be developed in the coming months. The CWCC will create quality standards and a continuum for schools looking to implement the model.

This coming school year, training and

technical assistance for the Initiative will rest with the Baltimore City Public School System. TASI will, however, continue to play an integral role on the CWCC, and is working to open various trainings and events to community school site coordinators and other staff.

In July, representatives from the John W. Gardner Center for

Youth and Their Communities at Stanford University visited Baltimore and the community school run by Hope Worldwide at Violetville Elementary. They were very impressed by the CWCC, and specifically by Hope Worldwide's ability to work with the school, the recreation center, and other organizations.

“The visit to Baltimore and Violetville was very informative. It was exciting to see all of the great work happening there.”
-Katrina, Gardner Center

Collaborative for Building After-School Systems/CBASS

CBASS has recently created a resolution sponsored by mayor Sheila Dixon of Baltimore and the mayors of Providence, Boston, and San Francisco. The US Conference of Mayors passed the resolution calling on all levels of government to invest in coordinated, expanded learning, or “full day” strategies that integrate community after-school programs and organizations into the

school day. The mayors voted to support a strategy of building citywide systems so that all students can learn from after-school experiences that are: aligned with the school day; provided by well-trained staff; and evaluated for their benefits to kids. The mayors also called for nonprofit intermediary organizations and public/private partnerships to coordinate schools and community organizations

within cities to give more kids access to strong, expanded learning programs.

In light of the pending release of Invest in What Works and Innovation funding, CBASS has developed a fact sheet delineating how intermediaries support and strengthen community organizations, and how they facilitate the Obama Administration's strategy to spur innovation.

Baltimore City Featured Program – BUGS

What youth have to say about it...

TASI spoke with three youth from Living Classroom Foundation's BUGS program. Here's what they have to say:

Why do you enjoy attending this program?

A: You get to do different things like cooking and art that keep you coming back.

W: I enjoy attending this program because we cook, garden, do art, and dance. I like to do all of those things at home and I heard about this program and wanted to go.



BUGS students working in their garden

D: I attend this program because we do lots of fun stuff like dance, art, gardening, and cooking and it helped me get into my middle school. The fun that we have and the people keep me coming back.

What about your program do you feel is unique, creative, or successful?

D: I think the thing about the program that is unique is the trips because they take us to places we have never been, and the cooking because they give us stuff that looks nasty but is actually good.

How do you think other after-school programs could learn from yours?

W: I think they could learn from my program because our teachers are not just about work, work work, and have some fun.

D: I think they can taste more foods and do more stuff about the environment.

How do you feel your after-school program has helped you?

A: They help me improve in my school work and my art skills.

W: They helped me get my grades up and do everything I was supposed to do in school.

What youth workers have to say about it...

TASI spoke with Drew Harris, a youth worker with the BUGS program:

What do you see as the mission of your program? What do you hope to achieve?

Provide the best after-school care possible, reinforcing the school day lessons, but also providing opportunities to the student that they normally wouldn't experience in a typical school day.

What about your program is unique,

creative, or successful?

We run the only kid-run farmer's market in Baltimore. We have our very own BUGS Farmer's Market in May, and run a table at both the Hamilton/Lauraville Market Connection on Tuesdays, and also the Harbor East Market twice a month. This provides our students with real life learning opportunities. They also earn paychecks for their

time, and they try new foods, hear great music, and meet other vendors and children doing much of the same things as they are doing.

What process or changes have occurred to make your program what it is today?

"Each member of our staff is hard working, but also creative. Our Program Director, Heather, allows the staff to be individuals and encourages us to be as creative as we can be."

Adding more markets to our routine has been my main process of change. This has really helped the students see the full cycle of what we do here, planting, growing, processing, and selling.

Congratulations and For more information...

BUGS, Baltimore Urban Gardening with Students, was recently awarded the William S. White 21st Century Community Learning Centers Program of Distinction Award from the US Department of Education and the Mott Foundation. In recognition of this, they were featured in a report by the Mott Foundation. To read the report, visit <http://www.mott.org/>



BUGS students with some of their hard work

[news/news/2009/bugs.aspx](http://www.livingclassrooms.org/news/news/2009/bugs.aspx).

BUGS is part of the Living Classrooms Foundation. Their address is:

802 South Caroline Street
Baltimore, MD 21231

To learn more about Living Classrooms in general, visit <http://www.livingclassrooms.org/>.

To learn more about BUGS specifically, visit <http://www.bugsprogram.org/blog.php>.

Heather Rebstad, BUGS Program Director, can be contacted at heatherr@livingclassrooms.org.

Montgomery Featured Program – Arts on the Block

What youth have to say about it...

TASI spoke with youth from Arts on the Block. Here’s what they have to say:

Why do you enjoy attending this program? What keeps you coming back?

T: I do like learning art skills and having the opportunity to use mediums I wouldn’t otherwise have access to, but for the most part, I love the atmosphere. Carien and the apprentices are friendly and I feel at home here.

S: I love AOB because of the great experience I’m getting, not only with mosaic,

but with handling the day-to-day challenges of a real work environment.

B: I love having a creative outlet and seeing my own designs and work come to life.

What about your program do you feel is unique, creative, or successful?



Students from AOB with the County Executive

T: I feel the fact that all the participants are high school students makes Arts on the Block unique. It allows a fresh perspective from the world’s oncoming generation of artists, while allowing us to develop our skills.

S: Our freedom to be expressive and creative in our designs, and the opportunity to meet and negotiate with clients (something usually reserved for adults).

KL: This program is unique in that it teaches life and job skills. We get the chance to do commission by clients and I get to gain the knowledge of what a business is like and how to manage one.

B: Everyone is respected and feels connected to all the projects. Everyone works hard and together to keep things rolling.

A: Every AOB apprentice is in high school and I don’t know any other program in which high school students can have their art work in the public eye.

What youth have to say about it, continued...

Continued from above:

How has your program changed since you started attending?

T: So much has changed. There are so many more projects we are taking on. Since I started here, we’ve gone from working on triptychs and mirrors to enormous benches and mobiles.

How do you think other after-school programs could learn from yours?

S: They could learn that it is a great idea to give

important responsibilities to teens, such as meeting with clients and seeing how the business side of things is handled.

How do you feel your after-school program has helped you?

T: AOB has more than anything helped me to be social. It’s different from school; you really get to know all your coworkers.

Because of this program, I go out more, I meet people, I explore my world. It’s really opened my eyes. And I am never afraid to express myself.

S: With AOB I’ve learned to do mosaic artwork, be successful in job interviews, and write a good resume.

“The people here are truly wonderful. Carien and Jan have been so kind and supportive of me. It really is a joy to come back each time.”
-T, student in AOB

KH: The program has helped me improve how I manage time and to appreciate myself more.

For more information...

The mission of Arts on the Block (AOB) is to empower creative youth to imagine and shape fulfilling futures and contribute to the quality of life of their communities. AOB provides paid opportunities for youth to work with mentor artists on projects that are commissioned and/or entrepreneurial.



AOB students reveal a mosaic bench

AOB offers after-school and summer “Pour your art out” workshops. Teen

participants attend high schools across Montgomery County.

To learn more about AOB, visit <http://www.artsontheblock.com/>.

Jan Goldstein, Executive Director, can be reached at 240.283.1526 or jgoldstein@artsontheblock.com.

The After-School INSTITUTE

The After-School Institute builds the capacity of after-school program providers so that they can deliver high quality services in a caring, supportive environment that empowers children and youth to develop civic, academic, artistic, and athletic talents and skills.

TASI's Baltimore address:

600 Reisterstown Road, Suite 512
Baltimore, MD 21208
(p) 410.580.0750
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info@afterschoolinstitute.org
www.afterschoolinstitute.org

Research News

TASI has been producing research highlights all summer! The most recent research highlights can always be found on our website.

June Highlights:

- “Research-Based Recommendations to Improve Child Nutrition in Schools and Out-of-School Time Programs,” from Child Trends
- “From Periphery to Center: A New Vision for Family, School, and Community Partnerships,” from the Harvard Family Research Project

July Highlights:

- “Meaningful Linkages between Summer Programs, Schools, and Community Partners: Conditions and Strategies for Success,” from the National Center for Summer Learning and Nellie Mae Foundation
- “How Program Administrators Can Support Out-of-School Time Staff” and “Data-Driven Decision Making in Out-of-School Time Programs,” both from Child Trends

August Highlights:

- “Why Teens Are Not Involved in Out-of-School Time Programs: The Youth Perspective,” Child Trends
- “Non-Participation of Children and Adolescents in Out-of-School Time Programs: Child, Family, and Neighborhood Factors,” Child Trends
- “Seeing is Believing: Promising Practices for How School Districts Promote Family Engagement,” Harvard Family Research Project and PTA
- “Surrounded by Support,” American Educator (an entire issue dedicated to the importance of community schools and out-of-school time activities in supporting student learning!)

Martinsville

Martinsville Henry County After 3 (MHC) recently completed a Great Science for Girls training institute. This will be MHC's first year implementing GSG. TASI is excited about continued work with MHC, and promoting quality after-school programming throughout the region.

STEM Statewide

Starting this year, TASI will have funding to work with after-school programs across the state on STEM. The funding is part of a project called NPASS 2 (National Partnerships for After-School Science). The project will be managed by the Education Development Center (EDC), with funding from the National Science Foundation.

TASI is looking for individuals interested in becoming STEM trainers, and programs interested in participating. Trainers will work with programs to start and/or improve STEM programming. If you're interested in being either a trainer or a participating program, contact Rebekah Lin at rlin@afterschoolinstitute.org or 410.580.0750, ext. 206.

TASI Staff

Rebkhya Atnafou, Executive Director

Lori Carter Vassor, Professional Development Coordinator

Rebekah Lin, Communications and Technical Assistance Specialist

Andrea Tillery, Office Manager

Part Time and Consultants

Aidom Behailu, Intern

Dr. Toks Fashola, Evaluator

Briauna Gaines, Mayor's Office of Employment Development Intern

Craig Kershaw, Chief Financial Officer

Looking to rent a private office? TASI has space for rent!

The prices are: Cubicle: \$300/month * Small office: \$500/month * Large office: \$700/ month

If you are interested in learning more, contact Andrea Tillery at atillery@afterschoolinstitute.org or 410.580.0750, ext. 200.

“Time and again, the bottom line of many after-school studies is that one of the most critical feature of high-quality programs necessary for achieving positive outcomes is the quality of a program's staff. Youth are more likely to realize the benefits of programs if they develop positive relationships with the program's staff, and staff can only build these relationships through positive, quality interactions with youth.”

– Harvard Family Research Project