



NASHVILLE'S VISION
FOR HOLISTIC YOUTH DEVELOPMENT



LEARN ENGAGE DEVELOP

**CONFERENCE FOR OUT-OF-SCHOOL
TIME PROFESSIONALS**

THURSDAY, MARCH 7, 2024

9:00AM - 5:00PM

MAIN LIBRARY

CONFERENCE CENTER

615 CHURCH STREET

NASHVILLE, TN 37209

OPENING PANEL: 9:40AM - 10:35AM

Youth Leadership

Hear from middle and high school youth who are involved in NAZA's *Youth In Action!* youth leadership initiative. The youth will talk about why it's important to involve youth voice in afterschool and how you can integrate authentic youth leadership in your programs.

Panelists:

- To be announced



SESSION 1: 10:40AM - 11:35AM

Panel Discussion: Effective Ways to Work with Parents and Recruit Students from Different Cultures

A panel of experts from various fields with extensive experience working with multicultural student populations will provide valuable insights and best practices for effectively engaging with parents and students from diverse backgrounds and creating an inclusive and welcoming environment for them.

Panelists:

- **Klem-Marí Cajigas**, Family Literacy Coordinator for Bringing Books to Life (BBTL)
- **Lydia Yousief**, Executive Director at Elmahaba Center
- **Vanessa Lazón**, MNPS-Extended Learning Family & Community Specialist



Moderator: Bassam Habib, Be Well at NPL Coordinator



Creating a Safe OST Environment: Strategies to Address and Prevent Bullying

This workshop is designed to equip participants with practical strategies to prevent and address bullying in out-of-school time (OST) settings. The workshop will explore the root causes of bullying, how to recognize the signs of bullying

and offer practical approaches to creating a safe and inclusive environment. Participants will leave with a better understanding of building positive relationships with youth and fostering a culture of respect and inclusion.

Eric Johnson is the Director of Training at STARS Nashville. His experience at STARS includes both direct student assistance work in schools and program management. His training work has taken him across the country, speaking to educators, mental health professionals, administrators, communities, parent groups, and student leaders. Over the past few years, through the Safe and Supportive-Schools initiative, he helped develop materials for the Tennessee Youth Engagement Summits, traveling throughout the state, training students and educators to utilize youth voice to shift the culture and climate in their schools.

Breaking Barriers, Building Bridges: Diversity, Equity, Inclusion, and Belonging in Action for Youth-Serving Professionals

Creating inclusive environments for at-risk youth requires intentional efforts to foster a sense of belonging and ensure all participants feel valued and respected. In this workshop, we will discuss equity issues in the juvenile justice system and provide guidance on creating programming to meet all students' needs regardless of their historical underrepresentation in areas of opportunity and growth.



Jennifer Wade, Esq., is the current Court Administrator and a former Magistrate at the Davidson County Juvenile Court. At Juvenile Court, Mrs. Wade served as the Director of the Metro Student Attendance Center (MSAC), where she led the dedicated staff to provide support services for students who have been truant or chronically absent from school. Wade then became a divisional magistrate handling issues of neglect, delinquency, and presiding over the GRIP Court. She co-chaired the Alignment Nashville Change Team on Attendance and was a member of Positive and Safe Schools Achieving Greater Equity (PASSAGE) Nashville to reduce discipline disparities and promote educational equity within Nashville schools. She is a board member of Communities in Schools and PENCIL and a member of the Tennessee Bar Association's Children's Law Committee.



Curiosity, Learning, and Growth Mindset: Individual Growth Practice Curriculum

This workshop will give the practitioners the essential skills to encourage young people to explore their interests through various activities. These activities are customized to challenge individuals and expose them to diverse learning approaches and techniques. By engaging in such activities, young people learn that their skills and abilities are not fixed but can be developed over time.

Ashley McEwen Broadnax is a Nashville native with over 15 years of experience in youth development and education. She received her bachelor's degree from Middle Tennessee State University and her Masters from University of Louisville. Ashley has taught 8th grade science for MNPS and worked as a program coordinator at several youth-focused non-profits. She is the Founder and CEO of Crowns Up Learning.

SESSION 2: 11:40AM - 12:35PM

Understanding and Implementing Holistic Youth Development

Participants in this session will learn about Nashville's shared vision for holistic youth development. They will learn how this vision was developed, why it is important, and how they can use it in their program. Additionally, participants will receive practical tips and communication tools created under this framework to help raise awareness among parents, youth, and youth development staff about the skills and strategies that can help young people thrive.

Anna Harutyunyan joined NAZA in May 2016 as the new Chief Executive. Anna spent the prior 15 years working in education and child protection sectors in her country of origin (Armenia). Anna holds a Master's Degree in Public Policy with a Major in Education from Vanderbilt University.



Rev. James Turner II is a native of Nashville, TN, and most noted for his experience in youth ministry, youth gang prevention, and juvenile justice. He received his undergraduate degree from TSU, his Master of Divinity from Morehouse School of Religion of the Interdenominational Theological Center, and currently working toward his Doctor of Ministry from Colgate Rochester Divinity School.



Maintaining Mental and Emotional Wellness by Navigating Burnout

Are you feeling stressed, exhausted, or overwhelmed at work? Do you find yourself struggling to find a work-life balance? This interactive workshop will provide strategies, tips, and practical resources for navigating burnout and maintaining wellness.

Jamila J. Walker, MSW is a Licensed Clinical Social Worker who specializes in working with adolescents, women, couples, and families, as well as coaching and mentoring the next generation of clinicians and private practice owners. She received a B.S. from Tennessee State University in Psychology and Africana Studies in 2001 and a Master of Science in Social Work from the University of Tennessee, Knoxville in 2013. Jamila is the Owner, Clinical Practice Director, and a therapist at Nashville Emotional Wellness Counseling and an adjunct instructor at the University of Tennessee School of Social Work.



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Preventing and Managing Interfering Behaviors Through a Trauma Informed Lens

Educators and other individuals working with today's youth face unique challenges. High levels of Adverse Childhood Experiences (ACEs) combined with post-pandemic stress can lead to student behaviors that are unresponsive to traditional classroom management strategies. This session aims to introduce the foundational concepts of Applied Behavior Analysis (ABA) and provide effective strategies for creating a positive, functional, and joyful learning environment for students and everyone working with them.



Pamela Sretchen is a licensed and Board-Certified Behavior Analyst with over 20 years of experience providing behavior support for children and their families. She is a long-time faculty member at Lipscomb University and consults with school districts to provide professional development and assistance for educators. In the community, Pamela has developed behavior support programs for churches, after-school programs, and organizations.



Empathy and Compassion: Individual Growth Practice Curriculum

Empathy and compassion play a crucial role in fostering a sense of community. When young people learn to comprehend and appreciate other people's emotions, they develop healthy relationships and valuable abilities for

cooperation and mutual respect in our diverse world. This workshop is designed to equip practitioners with the necessary skills to develop programs that promote individual growth through these practices.

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SESSION 3: 1:35PM - 2:30PM

Panel Discussion: Addressing the Trauma of Our Youth

Join us for a thought-provoking panel discussion on Addressing the Trauma of Our Youth. Our expert panelists will delve into the various traumas that young people may experience and discuss practical ways to support them. From childhood abuse to community violence, we'll explore how trauma can impact youth development and well-being and share strategies for fostering resilience and healing. Don't miss this informative and engaging conversation – it's essential to creating a brighter future for our youth.

Panelists:

- **Yolanda Hockett**, Juvenile Corrections Administration
- **Morgan Marks**, Chief Development Officer, Jason Foundation
- **Pamela Scretchen**, Licensed Behavior Analyst and Assistant Professor at Lipscomb University



Moderator: Monica McLaurine, Capacity-Building & Grants Manager at NAZA



Empowering Youth Voices through Restorative Circles

Throughout the training, you will acquire the skills to lead restorative circles in your out-of-school programs. By consistently utilizing these techniques, you can establish a calm and grounded environment, resulting in more enjoyable and productive after-school activities.

A native of Macon, Georgia, **Anthony Hall** has made Nashville home since 1992. Mr. Hall, affectionately known as "T. Hall" throughout the community, graduated with a BA in Sociology from Tennessee State University and completed his MPA from Cumberland University. Anthony has developed, implemented, and engaged in numerous programs for youth as well as the entire family. He is the Vice President of Operations at Why We Can't Wait.

Dad, We Need You! Strategies for Successful Parent/Guardian Engagement

A workshop to discuss the importance of partnering with parents, particularly fathers, and identify critical roles they can play in their child's education, along with strategies for engagement.



Robert Taylor, MPA has served as the President of The New Life Center, which provides fathers and families with the skills, knowledge, and support they need to become more positively involved in the lives of children, since 2016. He earned a Bachelor's from Fisk University and a Master of Public Administration from Bowie State University.



Identity and Self-Awareness: Individual Growth Practice Curriculum

This individual growth practice is designed to help us better understand our identity and the various layers of our being. We will explore the meaning of self-awareness and its significance in our lives. By the end of the training, you will be able to define and explain the concepts of identity and self-awareness, as well as understand how they impact our lives.

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SESSSION 4: 2:35PM - 3:30PM

Understanding and Implementing Holistic Youth Development

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Embracing AI (Artificial Intelligence) in Education

Explore the potential of AI in enhancing teaching and learning experience. Participants will learn about the latest AI technologies and tools, ethical and privacy concerns, and practical guidance on AI implementation in OST programs.

Studio NPL Manager **Niq Tognoni** joined NPL in 2014 to launch the Studio NPL Makerspace, which has since grown across several sites and mobile lab "pop-ups" that bring technology-focused learning opportunities to schools, community centers, and beyond. Niq holds degrees in theater, communication, and library science.



Stuart Wilson is Studio NPL's Technical Coordinator.

Tips and Strategies for Program Planning in After-School Programs



Join us in this workshop to explore various strategies for revitalizing your after-school space. Discover the significance of program planning and learn about the key considerations when organizing your after-school activities. Incorporate your vision into the program and gain valuable insights for your students. Let's work together to create weekly programming action plans that will make a difference.

NAZA's Capacity-Building & Grants Manager **Monica McLaurine** has had the pleasure of working with youth for over 20 years. Prior to joining NAZA, Monica was the T.O.T.A.L. Coordinator with the Nashville Public Library's T.O.T.A.L. (Totally Outstanding Teen Advocates for the Library) program for over 16 years. She worked with her staff (mostly teens) and trained them in several areas to prepare them to excel in curriculum development, leadership development, conflict resolution, and facilitation skills. Monica has a B.S. in Criminal Justice with a concentration with Juvenile Justice from the University of Tennessee at Chattanooga. She is a certified Life Coach and a twice published author.



Communication: Individual Growth Practice Curriculum

Nashville prioritizes communication to empower young people and increase their engagement with the community. By honing their communication skills, youth can participate in civic dialogue and decision-making and

advocate for their needs. Encouraging youth to be active communicators also supports their involvement in social, political, and cultural life, nurturing engaged citizens.

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SESSSION 5: 3:50PM - 4:45PM

Panel Discussion: Building Stronger Relationships with Schools

Hear from local school personnel and OST providers about best practices and tools to ensure your program can work effectively together with school staff and administration.

Panelists:

- **Tiffany Rhodes**, MNPS Community Achieves Site Manager
- **Dr. Bryson McGuire**, MNPS Assistant Principal
- **Thomas Chappelle**, Chief Academic Officer at Backfield in Motion
- **Tremata Norman**, MNPS Restorative Practices Specialist

Moderator: Deana Blount, Partnerships Manager at NAZA



Turning Individual Growth Practices into Engaging Activities

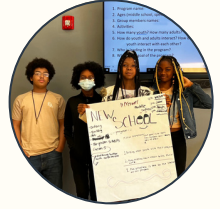
Learn to turn individual growth practices into engaging activities in this workshop. Discover helpful tips and strategies for creating enjoyable activities that teach essential skills and implement The Vision for Holistic Youth Development.



Benjamin Reese has been working with youth for 16 years, working in all kinds of roles, from English teacher to camp counselor to drama coach. He is currently the Program Director for the CASE afterschool program at Global Outreach Developments, International.

Youth-Led, Adult Supported: Empowering Youth Leadership

Join us for an interactive session on youth leadership led by *Youth In Action!* participants. This session focuses on engaging young people in out-of-school programs and other spaces. Youth participants will guide the session through exercises and share resources on how adults can support youth to share their voices.



Frontline Staff Focus Group

Join us for a focus group for frontline staff working in spaces of out-of-school time. This focus group will help NAZA provide better assistance to current and future partners. Topics include training opportunities, coaching needs, and understanding and implementing data among other frontline staff needs and interests.

NAZA's Data & Evaluation Manager **Dr. Ezra Howard** has spent most of his career working with language learners, first as a program coordinator through AmeriCorps with after-school programs catering to recent immigrants and then as a K-12 educator. In 2021, Dr. Howard completed dual PhDs with Masaryk University and University of Lisbon.