

Afterschool Centers on Education (ACE)



Dear Texas ACE Colleagues,

Congratulations on completing another school year. As we transition into summer, I hope you all have a chance to catch your breath and enjoy some well deserved time with family and friends. Here at the agency, we are busy welcoming new Texas ACE grantees, putting the finishing touches on the summer conference and already

planning for fall. I want to share some additional information on all of these initiatives.

In late spring, TEA announced 41 new Cycle 7 grantees. Cycle 7 was one of our most competitive rounds of funding yet, with over 140 applications received. I want to congratulate our new Cycle 7 grantees and also thank everyone who took the time and effort to submit an application for funding and to those who reviewed and scored the applications.

I am looking forward to seeing all of you at the Texas ACE Annual Conference in Austin later this summer. The 2011 Conference event will begin on August 8 – 9, 2011 with a mandatory pre-conference meeting for all Texas ACE Project Directors. The main ACE Annual Conference will be held August 10 – 11, 2011. The theme is

“A Blueprint for Afterschool Success” and will feature a variety of informative keynotes and sessions. Registration for the conference is now open at www.TexasACE21.org.

Finally, as I shared in the last newsletter, we know that adult and family engagement continues to be a challenge. Here at the agency we are putting significant effort behind trying to understand the root cause of the challenges we face in Texas and how we can overcome them. We recently conducted a family engagement survey of Texas ACE grantees. Based on the results of this survey, we are working to make available a set of research-based resources and strategies for increasing adult and family participation in your programs. This will also be a topic of further trainings going forward, including at the summer conference.

Again, I wish you all a restful and enjoyable summer. On behalf of everyone here at TEA, thank you for your continued dedication to the Texas ACE program.

Sincerely,
Candace M. Ferguson
21st CCLC State Coordinator/Program Manager

In the Spotlight

ACE Austin 6th Grade Students Actively Participate in College Readiness Program

College and workforce readiness is a core component of the Texas ACE Four-Component Activity Model and is incorporated in all ACE grant programs, especially those serving middle and high school students.

ACE Austin's *Get Ready for College* program provides students the opportunity to explore their talents and career options with activities such as:

- Goal setting
- Career and college exploration
- Service learning
- Fine arts
- Literature
- STEM

For 6th grade ACE Austin students participating in the *Get Ready for College* program, one of the activities available to them is playing lacrosse. ACE Austin partnered with New Horizons Lacrosse and created a co-ed lacrosse team of 6th grade students. Through their participation on the lacrosse team, the 35 students learned valuable lessons, improving their:

- Self confidence
- Teamwork skills
- Health and well being

The 6th grade lacrosse team visited Southwestern University in Georgetown, TX this school year. During the tour, the students had an opportunity to visit and practice with the Southwestern University Lacrosse Team. Student responses to this visit were very positive, resulting in determination to ensure lacrosse remained accessible in their community. They also understood the importance of graduating from high school. *Raquel Abraján*, the Site Coordinator, shares how a parent witnessed the positive impact on her son, *"This [campus tour] was a life transforming experience for [our] son. This was the first time he had ever talked about going to college."*

Parents have not only attended the lacrosse practices and scrimmages, they have also attended a *Get Ready for College* showcase. At the showcase, parents had the opportunity to learn about college admission and scholarship application processes. They also learned how the Austin Film Society, 4-H Club, and Theatre Art Project have supported ACE Austin. The lacrosse instructor introduced the sport to the parents through a hands-on, interactive session.

ACE Austin is excited to see the students and parents not only engaged in lacrosse but in the *Get Ready for College* program.



In addition to expanding lacrosse to other grades next year, the program is also considering expanding the parent training, focusing more on ways to help students prepare for applying to college. *Armandina Garza-Taskin*, ACE Austin/21st CCLC Quality Assessor, shares ACE Austin's goal, *"Our ultimate goal is to help parents understand how to best support their child's college readiness through academic preparedness and extracurricular activities such as lacrosse."*

2011 Texas ACE Conference Blueprint for Afterschool Success

August 10th – 11th at Barton Creek Hotel, Austin, TX

In preparation for the conference:

- Each Project Director can bring **up to 4 staff members** including him/herself. Once Project Directors identify staff members, they should then register themselves and forward the registration link to the selected staff members to complete the **online** registration at TexasACE21.org. All registrations should be completed by **July 1st**. **Please note the registration system will only allow a maximum of 4 staff members per grantee to register. There is a waiting list available. Please see FAQs online for details.**
- All conference attendees should familiarize themselves with the **PRIME Blueprint for Texas ACE**, available at TexasACE21.org.
- All conference attendees should identify success stories and challenges to share with peers during sessions. Topics for sessions will focus on the components of the **PRIME Blueprint-Program**, Fiscal, Data, and Quality Assurance.
- All conference attendees are expected to participate in all sessions, including the closing session. Therefore, **no one** should leave prior to the end of the conference at 4:00pm on August 11th. Please plan to visit the ACE Exhibitor Pavilion. Organizations and companies currently supporting afterschool programs will be represented.

Project Directors—Don't forget your Pre-Conference Meeting on August 8th – 9th at the Barton Creek Hotel Clubhouse.

More information about the Pre-Conference Meeting and the 2011 ACE Annual Conference is available at TexasACE21.org.

Texas ACE Releases the Needs Assessment & Asset Mapping Online Course this Summer!

Texas ACE will release an online course through MyTexasACE.org that will guide Project Directors and Site Coordinators in conducting their Community and Campus Needs Assessments. As identified in the [PRIME Blueprint for Texas ACE](#), conducting these assessments is the first **key** task leading to quality programming. The course outcome is for ACE Project Directors and Site Coordinators to create an assessment which drives programming that is tightly aligned with the school day, leverages identified community and campus assets, engages families, and impacts student achievement. It is recommended that the Project Director and Site Coordinator review the plan at mid-term to determine if any modifications are needed. The plan should be reviewed once more by the Project Director and Site Coordinator at the end of the each term to identify any emerging needs or assets. The goal is then to use these assessments as tools for continuous improvement and identifying needs and assets that surface as they implement their plans. It is aligned with the [PRIME Blueprint for Texas ACE](#) which outlines an asset-based approach that helps identify assets and resources in the community and campus, including those that youth and families bring to the program.

This course will guide grantees in:

- utilizing a step-by-step process for conducting an ACE Community & Campus Needs Assessment;
- accurately identifying ACE program needs, assets, resources, and opportunities;
- using the Needs Assessment as a TOOL for designing and implementing an effective program;
- connecting the Needs Assessment with outcomes as validated by data;
- leveraging assets—including students, parents, community, and campus;
- using course materials, information, and tools; and
- connecting with other Project Directors and Site Coordinators in the ACE Exchange community—sharing lessons learned, best practices, examples and tools along the way.

The structure of the course will offer the flexibility to take it independently or as a group at the grantee level, allowing staff to work together in identifying needs, assets, and aligning activities across their grant. Project Directors will be able to monitor staff progress throughout the course using reporting features in MyTexasACE.org. All participants will have access to knowledge, tools, resources, their ACE Online Community of afterschool practitioners, materials, examples, and their own course products during and after course completion.

Upon completion of the course, participants will receive 16 Continuing Professional Education (CPE) credit hours. Further information regarding the Needs Assessment & Asset Mapping online course will be discussed during the Texas ACE Annual Conference.



Texas Education Agency
Afterschool Centers on Education

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Questions?

Send your inquiries to the ACE Help Desk:
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Reminders:

June 30—Cycle 4 Inventory of Equipment, Supplies & Disposition Request Forms Due

July 20 & 21—Project Management Training for Cycle 7
AT&T Conference Center, Austin

July 25 - 27—National 21st CCLC Summer Institute

July 31—Cycle 4 Final Expenditure Report and Final Yearly Report Due

August 8 & 9—Project Director Pre-Conference Meeting

August 10 & 11—ACE Annual Conference

August 31—Cycle 5 & 6 Final Yearly Report

Impactful Training



The State Coordinator/Program Manager, Candace Ferguson, has set the overarching focus of Texas ACE to include High Quality Programming, High Quality Project Management, and a High Level of Family Engagement. With this in mind, four different types of training, tailored by audience, were offered to Texas ACE participants this Spring term. Each training was designed to share a particular skill set to enhance participant knowledge and be applied immediately to improve program management and programming.

Train-the-Trainer: How to Present Training With Impact—

The Training Clinic's Master Trainer, Jovie Masters, hosted these sessions in Dallas/Ft. Worth, Austin, San Antonio, and McAllen.

Day One was the introduction to adult learning styles coupled with various facilitation techniques for each style.

Day Two, participants were able to practice those techniques as they prepared a training of their own to present to their peers. Each participant's training was video-taped and played back while the entire group gave constructive feedback.

Both days were designed to give participants a strong foundation in not just training but how to observe others to help them train more effectively. Participant **Amber Young**, ACE Site Coordinator at Scott Johnson Elementary School in Huntsville, posted on the Texas ACE Community Lounge Discussion Forum, *"The Ft. Worth training was quite incredible. Ms. Masters did a Great Job on presenting the criteria on how to train others with IMPACT! I am more aware of how to engage my audience and what I look like doing it. Thank you for this unforgettable experience!"* Texas ACE has invited Ms. Masters back to further the training at our Texas ACE Annual Conference. It is our hope that participants will enhance their training by attending her conference workshop.

Advanced Coloring for Leaders and Supervisors plus Youth

Training—Coloring was one of the highest rated workshop sessions at last year's Texas ACE conference and ACE Grantees wanted more opportunities to work with Charly Skaggs. Training participants had nothing but positive feedback about the impact of colors on their programs. **Pete Garza**, ACE Project Director at Banquette ISD, stated on the ACE Community Lounge Discussion Board: *"Thank You all for once again another fabulous training with Charly Skaggs! I*

experienced this myself and my staff was so glad to be able to do the Colors training with Charly. This is the kind of training that makes after-school programming better. I would like to say Thank You to everyone for taking it to another level of training with Charly. This is what we need more of Real People presenting Real Material. Thanks."

The Colors Program is designed to give participants a better understanding of themselves and others. By gaining an understanding of others' behaviors and our own, colors provides an easy and fun way to create a "colorful", i.e., more productive, and happy workplace. Participants applied the Colors Program to themselves, their colleagues and learned about using the tool with students as well. The training has a multi-purpose as it can be applied to the work environment or home environment. If you missed this training don't fret as there will be a few sessions dedicated to the Colors Program presented by Charly Skaggs at this year's Texas ACE Conference.

Family Engagement Strategies From Active Life—

ACTIVE Life has a mission to build healthy families and healthy communities and Texas ACE has a focus to create a High Level of Family Engagement. Focusing on the alignment of these goals, ACTIVE Life partnered with Texas ACE to provide 19 regional trainings on their award-winning curriculum and will be offering additional information about their services at the Texas ACE Conference.

Texas ACE Project Management—In an effort to assist Texas ACE Programs with High Quality Project Management, ACE Training Consultant, Kathleen Bethke, developed a two-day training based entirely on Project Management through the use of the **PRIME Blueprint**. Initially this training was offered in two locations to a handful of programs that were selected for the roll-out. At the Texas ACE Annual Conference, this training will be introduced to all in a high-level workshop.