



UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION

OFFICE OF ELEMENTARY AND SECONDARY EDUCATION

February 3, 2021

Dear 21st CCLC State Coordinator:

The U.S. Department of Education is pleased to invite you to the **Nita M. Lowey 21st Century Community Learning Centers (21st CCLC) 2021 Summer Symposium**. Please save the date for this event, which will be held virtually this year on July 20-22.

The Summer Symposium will feature successful strategies that State educational agencies (SEAs) and their grantees can use to implement and manage all components of a 21st CCLC program. Attendees will hear from nationally recognized speakers during plenary sessions and work closely with education experts and peers during interactive workshops. SEAs staff and grantees gain valuable perspectives on afterschool issues and receive important updates about the 21st CCLC program.

This year's theme is 21st CCLC – Exploring New Horizons. Ideas for integrating virtual elements are woven throughout each of the following Symposium strands:

- **Closing the Learning Gap Through 21st CCLC**
Remote schooling and uncertain schedules are causing students to fall behind grade level. Learn about ways to help students and families reverse the COVID slide.
- **Engaging Families and Partners in 21st CCLC Programs**
Presenters from across the nation share ways to assess the needs of families, map assets to provide support, and design a program that engages families and community partners.
- **Career Pathways**
Prepare students for postsecondary success by developing their employability skills and providing career awareness, exploration, and planning opportunities. Learn how!
- **The Fundamentals of Flexibility – The Wide World of Creative Thinking**
Who says science and creativity don't mix? Strategies like STEAM (science, technology, engineering, the arts, and mathematics), design thinking, enrichment labs and technology integration can prepare students for jobs that require creative thinking.
- **Building Equity and Unity**
Do you want your program to be part of a strong support system for students with fewer resources and opportunities than their more affluent peers? Are you looking for ways to empower students to address social and civic divisions? This strand is for you.

Please share the above information with your out-of-school time stakeholders. Additional Symposium details and registration will be available this spring. Meanwhile, if you have questions about the Summer Symposium please contact Ms. Keely Weber at Keely.Weber@ed.gov.

Sincerely,

/s/

Patrick Rooney
Director, School Support and Accountability

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