

CONNECTICUT AFTER SCHOOL NETWORK

2019 Annual After School Conference

**EVERYDAY HEROES:
EMPOWER. ENGAGE. ENRICH.**

Saturday, November 2, 2019
Hartford Marriott Downtown, Hartford, CT

CONNECTICUT AFTER SCHOOL NETWORK

The Connecticut After School Network is dedicated to promoting young people's safety, healthy development and learning outside the traditional classroom. We do this by providing training and technical assistance to improve program quality, influencing policy on behalf of youth and families, and expanding funding opportunities.

EVERYDAY HEROES: EMPOWER, ENGAGE, ENRICH

Join us on Saturday, November 2nd at the Connecticut After School Network's Annual Fall Conference. The theme this year is "Everyday Heroes: Empower, Engage, Enrich". We will explore the many ways after school programs empower, engage, and enrich the lives of children. Choose from among 24 different workshops. In addition to our interactive opening session, network with other professionals, learn about innovative products & services from our vendors, and maybe walk away with one of our great door prizes. Hope to see you there!

SCHEDULE AT-A-GLANCE

8:00 am - 8:30 am Registration and Continental Breakfast

8:30 am - 9:30 am Opening Session

9:45 am – 11:15 am Session 1

11:30 am – 12:30 pm Lunch

12:45 pm - 2:15 pm Session 2

2:30 pm – 4:00 pm Session 3

OPENING SESSION

The current state of our nation has forced the unification of allies in civil rights to create safe and healthy environments that are fertile for youth development and learning. The Deputy Director of Connecticut, Commission on Human Rights and Opportunities will discuss everyday heroes who build our communities and break down discriminatory barriers that would tend to divide us.

The *Build a Community* maps and exercise will allow participants to openly discuss and explore creating integrated communities where both equity and equality are valued, where accommodations for religion and disabilities are integral components of community development; where sexual orientation and gender identity and expression are not used as reasons to vilify; and where national origin and immigration status do not bar access to opportunity.

KEYNOTE SPEAKER

Cheryl Sharp was appointed the Deputy Director of the State of Connecticut, Commission on Human Rights and Opportunities on July 4, 2014, serves as the second in command in the oldest governmental, civil rights agency in the nation. Prior to her appointment, she served as a litigation Attorney within the CHRO's legal department for over twenty years. She represents the state in the prosecution of complaints of discrimination before the CHRO's Office of Public Hearings and in state and federal court. She represents the CHRO in the Connecticut Safe School's Coalition, the CT Racial Profiling Working Group, and the Legislative Housing Re-entry Working Group.



In 2017 she was named Woman of the Year by the Commission on Equity and Opportunity. In 2015, she was recognized by the International Association of Human Rights Agencies for her work to promote civil and human rights law and equality. She was recognized by the CT Law Tribune as one of the dozen who made a difference for her work raising public awareness about civil and human rights. She was also named as one of the Connecticut NAACP's 100 most influential black people in Connecticut. She has developed several programs to increase students' awareness about civil and human rights laws including the statewide CT Kids' Court Competition and Kid's Speak, and a documentary, "Inclusion: students looking beyond the ADA". She was an adjunct professor at Quinnipiac University in the Political Science Department for six years.

She received her Business degree from Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute, attended Women's Campaign School at Yale University, received her law degree from UCONN School of Law, and her Bachelor's degree from Wesleyan University.

CONFERENCE PAYMENT & POLICIES

Register by the Early Bird Deadline of October 5th and save!

EARLY BIRD FEES - REGISTER BY OCTOBER 5, 2019

- \$120 Member
- \$175 Non-member
- \$170 Conference plus membership

REGISTRATIONS RECEIVED AFTER OCTOBER 5, 2019

- \$145 Member
- \$200 Non-member
- \$195 Conference plus membership

REGISTRATION DEADLINE – OCTOBER 25, 2019

Conference registration fee includes: Attendance at three workshops of your choice (based on availability and pre-registration is required), opening session, continental breakfast, and lunch. Certificates of attendance will be available for each workshop attended.

PAYMENT

- Online Registration – We accept check/money order, purchase order and credit card via the online registration process
- Payment by Check – Make check payable to **Connecticut After School Network**, and send payment with registration form (if not registering online) to Connecticut After School Network, 12 Melrose Avenue, Branford, CT 06405

DELAY, CANCELLATION & REFUND POLICY

- Due to inclement weather (snow, ice, flooding, etc.) or other emergencies, events may be delayed or canceled. Participants are responsible to check the CT After School Network website or Facebook Page for delay or cancellation notices.
- Refunds will be granted to registrants who cancel their registration by email at mberrios@ctafterschoolnetwork.org no later than **November 1st**.
- Refunds will not be provided to registrants who neither cancel nor attend the event. Confirmed registrants who are unable to attend the event may send a substitute in their place at no additional cost. Substitution information must be received by the CT After School Network at least two business days before start of the event.

QUESTIONS

- For any conference registration questions, contact Marla Berrios, Business Manager, via phone at (203) 483-1846 or via email at mberrios@ctafterschoolnetwork.org.
- For any general conference questions, contact Monica Whalen, Conference Coordinator, via email at mwhalen@ctafterschoolnetwork.org.

VENUE & CONFERENCE INFORMATION

LOCATION

Hartford Marriott Downtown
200 Columbus Boulevard, Hartford

PARKING

Free Parking passes will be available at the registration table if you park in the Convention Center garage.

CELL PHONES AND DEVICES

Please be respectful and turn your cell phones off during plenary and workshop sessions.

LUNCH OPTIONS

Vegetarian and Gluten Free options will be included in our menu.

EVALUATIONS

The Network is very interested in your feedback on the conference. A general conference evaluation will be available on line, a link will be in your conference program. Please take a few minutes immediately following your session to complete these evaluations. We appreciate you taking the time to complete the evaluation, they are useful tools in our efforts to provide the highest quality training events and conferences for you.

INTERNET ACCESS

Internet access is free in the hotel lobby and other public areas.

SMOKING POLICY

The Hartford Marriott Downtown is a completely smoke-free hotel, which includes all public spaces.

FACEBOOK/TWITTER/INSTAGRAM

Communicate with other attendees while at the conference and receive updates. Comment on sessions you attend and let us know which sessions or presenters you enjoyed. Check-in and write your comments using #CTafterschool. Follow us on Facebook @CTAfterSchoolNetwork, Twitter @CASN, Instagram @ctafterschoolnetwork and/or Pinterest @CTafterschool.

WORKSHOP KEY

Our workshops are pre classified to assist you in choosing the appropriate training to fit your individual professional goals.

- **Staff Experience** New Staff **(NS)** Experienced Staff **(ES)** Directors **(AD)**
- **Age Group** Early Childhood **(EC)** Early Elementary **(EE)** Older Elementary **(OE)** Middle School **(MS)** High School **(HS)**
- **Topic Area** Marked in **Pink**

CONFERENCE SCHEDULE

| Title | Presenter | Category |
|--|--|---|
| 8:00 - 8:30 am REGISTRATION & CONTINENTAL BREAKFAST/EXHIBITOR FAIR | | |
| 8:30 - 9:30 am OPENING SESSION | | |
| 9:45 - 11:15 am SESSION 1 | | |
| 1. <i>Tying Literacy to Math</i> | Melissa Cahill |  |
| 2. <i>Empowering Children by Incorporating Social Emotional Learning as a Primary Objective in Game Play</i> | Amanda Amtmanis | |
| 3. <i>Empathy: What it is, Why it Matters, and How to Grow It</i> | Charlene Voyce |  |
| 4. <i>Citizen Science Engaging After School with Bio-Blitz</i> | Carolyn Stearns & Kevin Segar |  |
| 5. <i>Youth Empowerment Initiative</i> | Dan Jaskot |  |
| 6. <i>Girls Club</i> | Jane Bielefield |  |
| 7. <i>Community Garbage Band</i> | Jona Jeffcoat, MT-BC | |
| 8. <i>Leaping into Leadership</i> | Barbara Vita & Khadija Bshara |  |
| 11:30 am - 12:30 pm LUNCH | | |
| 12:45 – 2:15 pm SESSION 2 | | |
| 9. <i>Using Poetry to Explore Emotions Is Essential to Social-Emotional Learning</i> | Tiana Brown |  |
| 10. <i>Engage Every Minute</i> | Amanda Amtmanis | |
| 11. <i>Empowering Positive Choice</i> | Jedda Williams | |
| 12. <i>Supporting Sensory Integration through Music</i> | Jona Jeffcoat, MT-BC | |
| 13. <i>Eval U 8</i> | Shawna Viola |  |
| 14. <i>STEAM Powered SEL</i> | Khadija Bshara |   |
| 15. <i>Modeling the Way - Helping Staff Find Purpose in Your Out-of-School Time Program</i> | Ken Anthony, Ed.D |  |
| 16. <i>Democracy in Middle School Programs</i> | Jane Bielefield |  |
| 2:30 pm – 4:00 pm SESSION 3 | | |
| 17. <i>Mind Games: Think, Learn, Have Fun!</i> | Ronald G Shapiro, PhD |  |
| 18. <i>Discovering Your Superpower</i> | Elizabeth Whitney | |
| 19. <i>Hot Topics with Michelle</i> | Michelle Doucette Cunningham |  |
| 20. <i>You 'Dissed' Me</i> | Patricia A Boozer, La'Rie McGruder & Duke Boozer | |
| 21. <i>Adventure Based Programs: Activities that Let Kids Build Social-Emotional Competencies</i> | Jason Hyland |  |
| 22. <i>Transforming School Culture through Farm-To-School Programs</i> | Joey Listro |  |
| 23. <i>The Intersection of Social Emotional Learning and Storytelling</i> | Carolyn Stearns |  |
| 24. <i>Supporting High School Students in their Choice of Music</i> | Jona Jeffcoat, MT-BC |  |



Leadership Track



STEM Track



SEL Track



Middle /High School

WORKSHOP CHOICES

Session 1

1. *Tying Literacy to Math*

Love to read but despise math? Make STEM and homework time easier by incorporating storybooks into your schedule. During this workshop, you'll discover a list of age-appropriate books that are fabulous to address Common Core math concepts and that are enjoyable for staff and students to read. Without students even knowing, help them get more comfortable with the math they're taught during the school day. Experience a variety of math activities that can be paired with a number of storybooks. Increase student's fact fluency, strengthen geometry concepts, and aid in improving measurement skills with this workshop. You'll never support math the same way; you'll actually like it!

Melissa Cahill NS, EE, Curriculum/Programming/STEM/Literacy

2. *Empowering Children by Incorporating SEL as a Primary Objective in Game Play*

Participants in this active workshop will explore ways to explicitly teach social emotional learning skills using intentionally chosen game play. Play with a purpose will give children authentic practice in developing self-awareness, emotional regulation, communication skills and more. This workshop is geared primarily toward those who work with elementary ages.

Amanda Amtmanis All, OE-MS, Active/Nutrition/Social Skills

3. *Empathy: What it is, Why it Matters, and How to Grow It*

You've heard the latest buzz. Empathy is a hot topic in Social Emotional Learning (SEL), but why all of the attention? Learn what empathy is, why our kids need it, and how to help them grow it. Come engage in activities that will help you build your own empathy muscles and prepare you to take these practices back to your program.

Charlene Voyce, Yale Center for Emotional Intelligence ES, EE-MS, Social Skills

4. *Citizen Science Engaging After School with Bio-Blitz*

Learn how to engage students in discovering all the living species in their after school area or a public space. Participants will learn how to use Nat Geo iNaturalist and other identification and recording tools to create their species list. All ages will be excited by the hunt for nature's variety. Environmental science never was this fun before! Connect their learning to art, music, literature and history for a cross curriculum experience.

Carolyn Stearns & Kevin Segar, EASTCONN All, EE-HS, STEM

5. *Youth Empowerment Initiative*

Collaborative problem solving, conflict resolution, goal setting and setting a path for achievement, while helping students be better prepared to overcome challenge, adversity, fear, and temptation are all skills necessary for success in the classroom and in life. Add adventure, fun and meaningful leadership lessons to your after school program with experiential activities that promote Leadership, Teamwork, and Empowerment. Workshop attendees will participate in, and learn to facilitate, exciting "prop-based" activities while discussing best practices for implementing those activities in their after school programs.

Dan Jaskot, EMPOWER Leadership All, OE-MS, Social Skills

6. *Girls' Club*

This workshop will focus on ways to build self-esteem and confidence in girls from grades 4-8. Through a series of activities, learn ways to help girls become strong young women who make good decisions and become contributing members of their schools, groups and community.

Jane Bielefield All, OE-MS, Social Skills

7. Community Building Through a Garbage Band

Making music doesn't have to be expensive. This workshop will explore using "found sounds" to create a community experience through group drumming. Trash cans, buckets, and other sounds will be explored in this interactive workshop. No music experience needed.

Jona Jeffcoat, MT-BC, Infinity Music Therapy Services **All, EE-HS, Fine Arts/Music/Drama/Dance**

8. Leaping into Leadership

Have you been working on the front-line and feel you're ready for a move but don't know the next step? Do you want to learn about what it takes to be a great leader? Do you know your stuff but need a boost on how to run an effective meeting? Then this workshop is for you! Learn how to create an agenda, send out invites, the art of minutes, the ins-and-outs of facilitating groups, how to speak with intention and clarity, and conflict resolution strategies. This workshop will help you launch into leading.

Barbara Vita & Khadija Bshara, CT After School Network **All, EC-HS, Supervision/Management**

WORKSHOP CHOICES

Session 2

9. Using Poetry to Explore Emotions Is Essential to Social-Emotional Learning

Using poetry to explore emotions is not just an activity for a rainy day. Instead, using poetry to explore feelings should be a priority. Poetry can be used as an outlet for a young writer to scream, cry, celebrate, or critique the world around them. In this workshop, participants will learn the techniques of using poetry to develop Social Emotional Learning skills. Participants will help their students explore their emotions through writing poetry. Poetry targets social-emotional skills like self-awareness and social awareness, essential skills for developing character development. Participants will receive handouts describing different techniques and resources.

Tiana Brown, Norwalk Housing Authority **All, EE-MS, Social Skills, Literacy**

10. Engage Every Minute

Utilize every minute to keep students engaged. This active workshop will allow participants to explore activities to keep children engaged during transition times. When an activity goes more quickly than you planned for, you sometimes have to wait to use a room you may be waiting for parents or for your bus to arrive; reach into your pocket and pull out one of these instant activities.

Amanda Amtmanis **ES, OE, Active/Nutrition**

11. Empowering Positive Choice!

This program encourages students to find the power within to confront obstacles and seek positive outcomes. Through songs and theatrical role play, students learn the K LA RUE Strategies to remove themselves from confrontational challenges. Student will explore leadership qualities through creative storytelling. They are the narrator, who can view the pros and cons of a problem and choose how to solve it positively using the elements of a plot.

Jedda Williams, K La Rue Educational Arts in Motion **ES, OE, Social Skills, Music/Drama**

12. Supporting Sensory Integration through Music

Behavior management, supporting engagement, and even developing peer relationships often boils down to the student's ability to integrate sensory stimuli. This workshop will examine the body's eight sensory systems, how over and under stimulation may present, and how to use music to support sensory integration.

Jona Jeffcoat, MT-BC, Infinity Music Therapy Services **All, EE-HS, Special Needs/Inclusion, Music**

13. Eval U 8

Feel like low quality programming has got you in the pits? Not even sure what quality means? Come check yourself before you wreck yourself with the CT Quality Self-Assessment Tool. We'll discuss the importance of self-reflection in creating quality programming and walk you through how to use the tool in each of your very own sites. Leave with a copy of the tool, access to the overall score sheet file, and the knowledge and skills to start assessing your program right away!

Shawna Viola, CT After School Network All, EE-HS, Supervision/Management

14. STEAM Powered SEL

Scientific discovery and innovation is fueled by curiosity, understanding, creativity, perseverance, and the willingness to take risks. These same skills must be cultivated and applied in daily life to support overall life-long success. In this workshop, we'll explore parallels between STEAM and SEL focusing on ways to intentionally highlight and develop SEL skills through STEAM lessons to build, relevance, interest, and student connection.

Khadija Bshara, CT After School Network All, EE-OE, Social Skills, STEM

15. Modeling the Way – Helping Staff Find Purpose in Your Program

How you lead matters. The way you listen to and support your staff can make or break the synergy of your team. In this session, we will take a deep dive into what leadership in out-of-school time means. Strategies to empower your staff and model the way will be discussed as we unpack your own leadership style and how this impacts your program and connections with staff.

Ken Anthony, Ed.D., CT After School Network AD, EC-HS, Supervision/Management

16. Democracy in Middle School Programs

Middle schoolers are given schedules, told what to do and where to be. They rarely have any say in their activities. This workshop will provide concrete ways to increase youth voice in day to day programming, increase engagement, and build ownership of their program.

Jane Bielefield AD, MS, Social Skills, Curriculum/Programming

WORKSHOP CHOICES

Session 3

17. Mind Games: Think, Learn & Have Fun!!!

Understanding human cognition is critical in order to effectively empower, engage and enrich the lives of children, improve safety, learning & communication among learning professionals, parents and students. Our session begins by presenting a basic model of human cognition followed by audience participation in 35 fun and fascinating activities to illustrate human strengths and limitations. Concepts illustrated in this program may help you to be a better teacher, learner and communicator. You may also chose to bring these learning activities to your classroom, home or organization.

Ronald G Shapiro, PhD, All, EE-HS, STEM, Social Skills

18. Discovering Your Superpower

When they hear the word "superpower" most people think of flying around saving the city, or using your laser beam eyes to cut open a door. What they don't think of is their innate ability to calm down that screaming child or to look at a pile of recyclables and see an art project. How about the power to get a crazy classroom into control and transitioned to the next activity with ease? In this workshop you will be learning how to find your superpower and harness it, as well as use these methods to help encourage others, including your students!

Elizabeth Whitney, Winsted Area Childcare All, EE-HS, Personal Development/Supervision/Management

19. Hot Topics with Michelle

Wondering what's NEW in public policy, Social Emotional Learning or programming? Join the Executive Director of the Connecticut After School Network in a roundtable discussion to hear the latest hot topics in after school.

Michelle Doucette Cunningham, CT After School Network **All, EE-HS, Supervision/Management**

20. You 'Dissed' Me!

This is a combination of problem solving and stopping bullying techniques. Included are strategies for negotiating life, recognizing power imbalances, learning conflict styles, and dealing with difficult people.

Patricia Boozer, La'Rie McGruder, & Duke Boozer, Pinnacle Training & Publishing **All, EE-HS, Social Skills**

21. Adventure-Based Programs: Activities that Let Kids Build Social-Emotional Competencies

Children and youth build lifelong skills through play and confidence through challenge. This program will explore the exciting world of adventure-based activities at both the theoretical and practical level. Participants will get a hands-on experience with outcome-oriented play and gain some avenues to further explore the world of adventure programming.

Jason Hyland **All, EE-HS, Social Skills**

22. Transforming School Culture through Farm-To-School Programs

Seven years ago, New Britain ROOTS' set out on a mission to educate all K-12 students in growing and preparing healthy fruits and vegetables. This workshop examines how a simple after school program was the catalyst to changing the school environment, from the school grounds to cafeteria to classroom. We will discuss our successes and challenges, including the difficulty of connecting after school with the school day, parent engagement, and school buy-in.

Joey Listro, New Britain ROOTS, Inc. **All, EE-HS, STEM, Curriculum/Programming**

23. The Intersection of Social Emotional Learning and Storytelling

Explore the art of storytelling (not reading) as an integral tool in Social Emotional Learning, from "what is storytelling", to "how to find the SEL in a story". Develop the story into a foundation for literacy and SEL education on all levels. Stories are what make us human and connect us all, learn how to use their power to engage in the after school setting.

Carolyn Stearns, EASTCONN **All, EE-HS, Social Skills**

24. Supporting High School Students in Their Choice of Music

What did that song just say? This workshop will explore what to do when students request songs with "inappropriate" lyrics. The research behind their decisions will be explored. Music-based activities will be conducted to help attendees get fresh ideas to engage their high school students in group music activities.

Jona Jeffcoat, MT-BC, Infinity Music Therapy Services **All, MS-HS, Fine Arts/Music/Drama/Dance**

MEMBERSHIP INFORMATION



TOGETHER WE CAN BUILD A COMMUNITY THAT SUPPORTS STUDENT SUCCESS

ANNUAL MEMBERSHIP FEE

\$50.00 per person

WHAT WE DO

To achieve our vision where every young person can participate in great learning opportunities after school and during the summer, we:

- provide training and technical assistance to improve program quality
- influence policy on behalf of youth and families
- expand funding opportunities

JOIN US AS WE:

- Advocate for more state and federal investments
- Build a statewide system to enhance program quality
- Connect leaders and innovators in Connecticut and across the nation
- Demonstrate the impact of programs

WHY SHOULD YOU JOIN?

- Do you value afterschool and summer programs and the benefits it provides our families and youth in Connecticut? Together our voices are more powerful, stronger, and able to communicate a unified message. Join us and make a difference!
- Do you attend professional development trainings, conferences, or workshops? Network membership more than pays for itself with tremendous discounts at all our trainings. Join us and save money!!
- Do you want to connect with others? Build a community of practice – helping others and getting the help you need. Be a part of the premier membership association for professionals who serve families in after school and in the summer in Connecticut. Join us and become part of the afterschool family!!

BENEFITS:

- \$50 discount for the Connecticut After School Network Annual Conferences registration.
- \$25 discounts on registration fees for Network professional development trainings and events, including Deep Dive Sessions, First Fridays, Summer Staff Kick-Off, and on-site trainings.
- Access to Staff Helpline to answer pressing questions via telephone, text and chat.
- Access to the Network's Resource Library, more than 250 print and digital resources on a huge variety of afterschool topics.
- Ability to post after school and summer job openings on the Network's website to reach a wider audience.
- FREE National After School Association Ambassador membership (optional)

**CONNECTICUT AFTER
SCHOOL NETWORK
Registration Form**

**ANNUAL FALL CONFERENCE
SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 2, 2019**

TO REGISTER BY MAIL

Please mail completed form with check or purchase order to:

Connecticut After School Network
12 Melrose Avenue
Branford, CT 06405

CHECKS PAYABLE TO

Connecticut After School Network

Pre-registration is required. No walk-in registration will be allowed. Checks or purchase order required prior to conference date. Conference fee must be paid unless written cancellation is received at mberrios@ctafterschoolnetwork.org by November 1st.

CONFERENCE LOCATION

Hartford Marriott Downtown
200 Columbus Boulevard

REGISTRATION DEADLINES

Early Bird: October 5, 2019

Final: October 25, 2019

PARTICIPANT INFORMATION:

Name : _____

Organization: _____

Address: _____

City/ State / Zip Code: _____

Email: _____

Work Phone: _____ Fax Phone: _____

FEE: Check ONE Box from the following registration choices below.

- Member
- Non-member
- Conference plus membership

Amount Enclosed:

****To get Early Bird Pricing - Register by October 5, 2019!***

View FULL workshop descriptions at

PARTICIPANT SIGNATURE:

EARLY BIRD FEES - REGISTER BY OCTOBER 5, 2019

- \$120 Member
- \$175 Non-member
- \$170 Conference plus membership

REGISTRATIONS RECEIVED AFTER OCTOBER 5, 2019

- \$145 Member
- \$200 Non-member
- \$195 Conference plus membership

CONFERENCE REGISTRATION FEE INCLUDES

Attendance at three workshops of your choice (based on availability and pre-registration is required), opening session, continental breakfast, and lunch. Certificates of attendance will be available for each workshop attended.

Online registration and additional conference information available online at our [2019 Fall Conference Event Page](#)

WORKSHOP SELECTIONS

A first, second and third choice must be indicated for each session.

Session I (9:45 - 11:15 am)

1st Choice

2nd Choice

3rd Choice

Session II (12:45 – 2:15 pm)

1st Choice

2nd Choice

3rd Choice

Session III (2:30 – 4:00 pm)

1st Choice

2nd Choice

3rd Choice

CONSENT TO PHOTOGRAPH, FILM, OR VIDEOTAPE PARTICIPANTS FOR NON-PROFIT USE (e.g. educational, public service, or health awareness purposes) As a conference participant, I acknowledge and grant permission to the *Connecticut After School Network* to use my image (photographs and/or video) for use in *Connecticut After School Network* publications including videos, email blasts, recruiting brochures, newsletters, and magazines and to use my image in electronic versions of the same publications or on the Connecticut After School Network website or other electronic forms of media. By registering, I hereby waive any right to inspect or approve the finished photographs or electronic matter that may be used in conjunction with them now or in the future, whether that use is known to me or unknown, and I waive any right to royalties or other compensation arising from or related to the use of the image.

CONNECTICUT AFTER SCHOOL NETWORK



STAFF

Michelle Doucette Cunningham
Executive Director

Ken Anthony, Ed.D
Director of Professional Development & Research

Barbara V. Vita, M.Ed
Early Childhood Network Specialist

Khadja Bshara
Professional Development Specialist & SEL Coordinator

Mary Schone
Professional Development Specialist

Rose Dugas
Project Assistant

Shawna Viola
Research & Evaluation Specialist

Monica Whalen
Conference & Training Coordinator

Marla S. Berrios
Business Manager/Data Training &
Support Specialist

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Liz Buczynski, Co-Chair
Director of Community Investment
United Way of Central and Northeastern CT

Kimberly Armstrong Silcox, Co-Chair
Director, Center for Community Engagement
Eastern CT State University Farmington Public Schools

Audette Bisailon
Program Director
ROSCCO

Elwyn Brewster Quirk, Esq.
Principal
Law Office of E.B. Quirk, LLC

Melanie Carfora
Senior Director of Youth, Family & Childcare Programs
Middlesex YMCA

Wendy Gerbier
Director of Learning Center
Norwalk Housing Authority

Jon Hoch, Secretary
Chief Operating Officer
Domus

Bryan Zerio, Treasurer
Director, Farmington Extended Care &
Learning

Steve Markoja
Executive Director
Meriden YMCA New Britain/Berlin

Sarah Moran
BASES Dept. Manager
EdAdvance

Adam Olson
Community Representative
Farmington