

# ACTNOW! NEWSLETTER



## *November*

- 11/10** Million Girls Moonshot STEM Webinar: Engineering Practice Support Equity Part III
- 11/11** Cultural Competency Webinar Series Part I
- 11/12** Downstate Community Schools Convening
- 11/18** Cultural Competency Webinar Series Part II
- 11/25** Cultural Competency Webinar Series Part III

## Call for Phenomenal Staff and OST Programming!

To celebrate afterschool and extended learning providers, and to shine a light on the integral role that program staff plays in restoring Illinois, ACT Now will continue to showcase staff members and programs on our social media platforms and in our weekly newsletter. We will also share your stories and experiences with legislators and state agencies to advocate on your behalf!

Please email Emma Spencer (ACT Now - Youth Development Associate) at [Spencere@actnowillinois.org](mailto:Spencere@actnowillinois.org). Please attach a photo, the name of the staff member or name of the afterschool program, and a caption for how this individual or program is working to support young people in the community.

## Phenomenal Afterschool Staff Highlights!

# Kirina Gair-MacMichael

**Title:** Squash Coordinator  
**Location:** Evanston, IL  
**Organization:** MetroSquash

Kirina shares her enthusiasm for the sport of squash with students who may be new to the sport and encourages them to get active physically and civically! Participants in the past have completed community service projects, gone on field trips, and competed in squash tournaments.



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Afterschool for Children and Teens

# Marnee Irby

**Title:** Academic Coordinator  
**Location:** Evanston, IL  
**Organization:** MetroSquash

Marnee leads MetroSquash's academic programs that provide homework support, as well as math and reading enrichment opportunities, for youth in the community. Marnee also works hard to adapt her organization's programs to meet the needs and interests of each student and their families.



## Policy Updates

### Federal Policy

#### [Afterschool Alliance Article: Election 2020 Results From the Afterschool Policy Perspective](#)

On **November 6, 2020**, the Afterschool Alliance released an article on the Election 2020 results from the afterschool policy perspective. The Alliance maintains that there remain bipartisan support for Out-of-School Time (OST) and summer learning programs in rural, suburban, and urban communities. To read the full article, with more specific details about

elected officials and committees that oversee funding allocation for afterschool in both the U.S. House of Representatives and the U.S. Senate, click [here](#).

### **U.S. Senate: 21st Century Community Learning Centers Coronavirus Relief Act of 2020 Proposed**

On **October 26, 2020**, U.S. Senators Lisa Murkowski (R-Alaska) and Tina Smith (D-Minnesota) introduced S. 4868, the bipartisan 21st Century Community Learning Centers (21st CCLC) Coronavirus Relief Act of 2020. This piece of legislation is designed to expand access to supervised learning for students through the remainder of the COVID-19 public health crisis. **The legislation would provide \$1.2 billion in additional funding and greater flexibility for the Nita M. Lowey 21st CCLC program by allowing afterschool providers to operate when schools are instructing virtually and not offering class in-person.** The bill differs slightly from the U.S. House of Representatives' version, which can be accessed [here](#). To read the Afterschool Alliance's full brief on the proposed legislation, click [here](#).

### **U.S. Senate: Full-Service Community Schools Bill Introduced**

On **October 26, 2020**, U.S. Senators Sherrod Brown (D-Ohio), Kirsten Gillibrand (D-New York), and Chris Van Hollen (D-Maryland) introduced S. 4865, the Full-Service Community School Expansion Act of 2020. This bill will help schools and districts serve students, families, and communities by providing resources for public schools to be community hubs - using the community schools model to provide integrated student supports and expanded and enriched learning opportunities, as well as other support services to families. **The proposed bill calls for the investment of \$3.65 billion over the next five years to plan, implement, expand, and support full-service community schools, outlines grant opportunities for service, and would further develop the infrastructure to support these schools.** To read more about the proposed bill, click [here](#).

## **State Policy**

### **Illinois P-20 Council: November Meeting Summary**

On **November 6, 2020**, the Illinois P-20 Council met. During this meeting, Council members heard a presentation on the progress made to the Illinois State Board of Education's (ISBE) Illinois Preparation Profiles (IPP) initiative. IPP is a data system that hosts a variety of information regarding



teacher preparation programs across the state. To learn more about the IPP, click [here](#). Council members also were updated on the status of the Illinois Longitudinal Data System (ILDS) 2.0. This system would allow state agencies and researchers to collaborate in a more fluid nature and bring together data, from across the state, on services and programs that serve children and students. To learn more about the ILDS, click [here](#). Based upon conversations from the September convening, with regard to COVID-19's impact on students, the P-20 Council developed two new committees on Academic Recovery and Social-Emotional Learning (SEL) and Supporting the Whole Child. Council members then split into groups to discuss topics including meeting the immediate SEL needs of students, increased instructional time, professional development for teachers and parents, the community schools model, engaging students, and preparing for future emergencies.

*For a list of previously listed policy updates, click [here](#).*

## Trainings, Events, and Webinars

### Administration

#### ACT Now: Community Schools Convenings

**ACT Now** will continue to host training events for Community Schools (CS) providers throughout the state during FY21. The next training will take place on **November 12, 2020**, for Downstate providers. The training will surround the topic of Advisory Boards. To register for this event, click [here](#). More information regarding the regional convenings is located on our Community Schools Corner page [here](#).

#### ACT Now Webinar Series: Acceptance in Afterschool: When Cultural Understanding Informs Quality Programming

Based on data collected from our online strengths-based quality self-assessment tool, the IL-QPSA, **ACT Now** developed a virtual three-hour series on Cultural Competency. **Last spring, we launched this training and it was so successful that we are bringing it back this November!**

- On **November 11, 2020, from 10:00 a.m. to 11:00 a.m.**, participate in Part 1: What is Cultural Competency and Why Does it Matter in Afterschool?

- On **November 18, 2020, from 10:00 a.m. to 11:00 a.m.**, join us for Part 2: Practice and Analyze the Understanding of Self-identities and How they Translate into Afterschool Programming
- On **November 25, 2020, from 10:00 a.m. to 11:00 a.m.**, attend Part 3: Programmatic Ways and Tangible Resources to Implement and Sustain Cultural Competency.

**Each webinar is \$10.** To register for individual webinars or for the entire series, click [here](#).

*Please Note: Each webinar will be limited to 30 individuals to encourage a robust and in-depth conversation on Cultural Competency between attendees over Zoom. Please contact Emma Vibber at [VibberE@actnowillinois.org](mailto:VibberE@actnowillinois.org) to inquire about group pricing.*



**Million Girls Moonshot Webinar: Engineering Practice Support Equity Part III**

On **November 10, 2020, at 2:00 p.m.**, Million Girls Moonshot is hosting part three of its webinar series on engineering practices to support equity. Participants will dive deep into the importance of fostering an engineering mindset in youth and highlight how to evaluate and iterate, navigate failure, and promote teamwork and STEM identity. Attendees will also learn how to create inclusive learning experiences for young people. To register, click [here](#).



## Safety, Health, and Nutrition

### Illinois State Board of Education and the U of I Extension Webinar: Serving Remote Learners

The Illinois State Board of Education's (ISBE) Nutrition Department and the U of I Extension are hosting a webinar for school nutrition professionals and afterschool providers across Illinois. On **November 12, 2020, from 2:00 p.m. to 3:00 p.m.**, providers will discuss best practices for serving remote learners. Topics will include how to send meals for multiple days, options for packaging, food safety regulations, and flexible pickup and delivery options. To register for the webinar, click [here](#).

*For an archive of our previously listed Trainings, Events and Webinars, click [here](#).*

## Resources for Providers

### Administration

#### ACT Now Blog: Elections

Afterschool programs are integral in supporting youth and families, especially during a stressful post-election season. Our Network Lead, Susan Stanton, wrote a blog post outlining some suggestions for afterschool providers to keep in mind with regard to election stress, in order to support the youth and communities they serve, as well as staff. To read the blog post, click [here](#).

#### Children's Home & Aid: Self-Care During the Election Resources

[Children's Home & Aid](#) has compiled a list of resources on self-care for providers, youth, and families to utilize as we continue to process the outcome of the election and the exhausting effects of the campaigns, COVID-19, and racial injustice. To review the self-care and conversation resources, click [here](#).

#### Virginia Center for Inclusive Communities: Days After Election Guide

[The Virginia Center for Inclusive Communities](#) has a guide devoted to helping educators and afterschool providers build a positive and safe environment to process the results from the election and successfully interact with program

staff and classmates who may differ from them – politically or otherwise. To review the guide, click [here](#).

## Youth Development

### ACT Now: The Learning About COVID-19 Activity Guide

*The Learning About COVID-19 Activity Guide* has been developed for the [50 State Afterschool Network](#), with leadership from the [Alaska Afterschool Network](#), to help educate youth on the science behind COVID-19 and to help foster greater social awareness and empathy in communities. The guide hosts 40 activities and challenges and is organized by four different age groups (5-9), (10-12), (13-15), and (16-18). It is also adaptable for in-person and virtual instruction, or a hybrid, and providers are able to develop take-home packets using the sessions. Featured activities use low-cost and household items and are based on skill-building, STEM, and social-emotional learning competencies. To access the activity guide, click [here](#).



### ACT Now STEM Webinar: How to Make STEM At-Home Kits

On **November 5, 2020**, **ACT Now** hosted its second STEM webinar on the importance of engaging youth in STEM programming while at home, or in a virtual environment, via STEM at-home kits. To access the recording, click [here](#).

### Porch Blog Post: Simple STEM Activities To Do At Home

Porch has published a blog post on Simple STEM Activities To Do At Home. The blog post elevates the importance of fostering STEM competencies in youth and highlights easy ways to use moments at home as STEM learning opportunities. To read the blog post, click [here](#).

## **eSchools News Article: Integrating SEL into Hybrid Programming**

[eSchools News](#) has published an article with tips and activities for integrating SEL into hybrid programming as school districts and afterschool programs across the country begin to make the transition to this style of instruction. To read the full article, click [here](#).

## **Safety, Health, and Nutrition**

### **No Kid Hungry: School Meals Marketing Toolkit**

[No Kid Hungry](#) has created a new School Meals Marketing Toolkit to help partners, school districts, and communities get the word out about school meals. The toolkit includes a variety of both ready-to-use and customizable social media content for digital platforms and to print out to share with families. The toolkit also includes flyers, phone scripts, and a customizable letter to families and resources are available in both English and Spanish. To access the toolkit, click [here](#).

## **Family and Community Partnerships**

### **The Illinois AfterSchool Network: Parent Cafe Session**

[The Illinois AfterSchool Network \(IAN\)](#) will be hosting a Parent Café Session on **November 14, 2020, from 11:00 a.m. to 12:15 p.m.** Discussion will focus on the topic of supporting families with e-learning. The primary goals of Parent Café Sessions are as follows:

- Being more resilient parents
- Forging positive social relationships
- Learning to create concrete support networks
- Increasing their knowledge of parenting and child/youth development
- Improving their communication skills

For more information on the event, click [here](#).

***For an archive of our previously listed Opportunities for Providers, click [here](#).***

## Opportunities for Providers

### Administration

#### The National AfterSchool Association: Next Generation of Afterschool Leaders Award Opportunity

The National AfterSchool Association (NAA) is soliciting nominations for its Next Generation of Afterschool Leaders Awards. These awards are for exceptional and emerging leaders, 30 years old or younger, in the field. The NAA is looking to recognize those who have demonstrated the following during their careers:

- A strong belief in the power of afterschool
- A vested interest in quality programs, data, and evaluation
- A proven passion for advocacy, the power of youth voice, and racial justice

Nominations are due on **November 13, 2020**. For more information, click [here](#).

*For an archive of our previously listed Opportunities for Providers, click [here](#).*

## Youth Opportunities

### Administration

#### ACT Now: Policy and Communications Internship for Spring 2021

**ACT Now** is seeking applicants for our Policy and Communications Internship for spring 2021. As our intern, you will have the opportunity to assist in ACT Now's federal and state policy initiatives and communications work. Applicants should have excellent communication skills, a strong work ethic, and a background in government relations, public policy, or social work. Applicants must have also completed at least their sophomore year in their undergraduate institution and be able to dedicate at minimum 12 hours a week to working at ACT Now. To review the full posting, click [here](#).

### Youth Development

## Opportunity Works and Chicago Cook Workforce Partnership: Secure the Bag Workshop

On **November 13, 2020, from 10:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m.**, [Opportunity Works](#) and the [Chicago Cook Workforce Partnership](#) are hosting their final Secure the Bag workshop. This series was designed to enhance young people's professionalism and to connect teens, ages 16 to 24, to resources that will help them "secure the bag" in their careers. To register for this workshop, click [here](#).

*For an archive of our previously listed Youth Opportunities, click [here](#).*

## Funding Opportunities

*For an archive of our previously listed Funding Opportunities, [click here](#).*

## Were you forwarded this email?

[Click Here](#) to Subscribe to the ACT Now Newsletter!

## Call for Resources

Do you have valuable resources, stories, or best practices to share with the afterschool field? Please click [here](#) to share your resources with ACT Now and we will disseminate them (via our newsletter and website) to other providers across the state! If you have any questions, please contact **Emma Spencer (ACT Now - Youth Development Associate)** at [Spencere@actnowillinois.org](mailto:Spencere@actnowillinois.org)

**NOTE: We are now sorting our trainings and resources by the Core Areas in the Illinois Statewide Afterschool Quality Standards to promote better understanding and implementation of the Standards. Dark blue headings denote a Core Area. To learn more about the Quality Standards, click [here](#).**

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