

Boston After School & Beyond's
ACT Skills Summit:
Preparing Youth for College, Career, and Life

June 5, 2017 | 8:00 AM – 3:00 PM
Boston University, George Sherman Union



Event Agenda

8:00 AM | **Coffee & Networking**

8:30 AM | **Welcome**

Dr. Hardin Coleman, Dean of Boston University School of Education, and Vice-Chair of Boston School Committee
Senator Sonia Chang-Díaz, Chair, Joint Committee on Education

8:45 AM | **Why Skills Matter: Perspectives from Boston Leaders**

Dr. Tommy Chang, Superintendent, Boston Public Schools
Wanda McClain, Vice President of Community Health and Health Equity, Brigham and Women's Hospital
Kelli Wells, Executive Director of Education and Skills, GE Foundation
Moderated by *Rahn Dorsey, Chief of Education, City of Boston*

9:30 AM | **The New ACT Framework**

Chris Smith, Executive Director, Boston After School & Beyond
Dr. Gil Noam, Founder and Director, The PEAR Institute

10:30 AM | **Break**

10:45 AM | **Achieve: Concurrent Workshops**

See workshop descriptions on page two of this agenda.

11:45 AM | **Lunch**

12:30 PM | **Connect: Concurrent Workshops**

See workshop descriptions on page three of this agenda.

1:45 PM | **Thrive: Concurrent Workshops**

See workshop descriptions on page four of this agenda.

2:45 PM | **Feedback Surveys & Close of ACT Skills Summit**



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Achieve: Workshop Descriptions

10:45 – 11:45 AM

The Achieve skills help young people process information, assess situations and potential outcomes, and connect actions to future goals.



Option 1 - HMS MEDScience: Think Like a Scientist!

Location: Metcalf Hall Small

Facilitators:

- Julie Joyal, *Executive Director*, Harvard Medical School MEDScience
- Sally Noteware, *Program Assistant*, Harvard Medical School MEDScience
- Gretchen Warland, *Program Teacher*, Harvard Medical School MEDScience

HMS MEDScience utilizes a unique teaching pedagogy to promote critical thinking, creative thinking, and the ability to persevere in solving challenging problems. In this session, attendees will experience MEDScience's instructional strategies by participating in a simulated medical emergency and then debriefing the experience to help identify key techniques participants might apply in their own settings.

Option 2 - Training for Critical Thinking: Aligning Staff Development with Creative Curricula

Location: GSU Alley (Located in the basement)

Facilitators:

- Jesse Leavitt, *Manager of Student Development and Evaluation*, Phillips Brooks House Association
- Kate Johnsen, *Deputy Director*, Phillips Brooks House Association
- Karina Buruca, *Co-Director Franklin Afterschool Enrichment*, Phillips Brooks House Association

Phillips Brooks House Association (PBHA) will be sharing how their Summer Urban Program develops staff to encourage critical thinking in youth. Attendees will understand elements of intentional staff training materials and competencies for first-time youth workers to teach critical thinking through arts for social justice and community-based projects. Participants will then make a plan to align staff curriculum training that capitalizes assets and interests of staff to lead effective interdisciplinary projects.

Option 3 - Teaching Achieve Skills through Design Thinking

Location: East Balcony (Above Metcalf Hall)

Facilitator:

- Lydia Emmons, *Director of College & Career Pathways*, Sociedad Latina

Sociedad Latina's STEM programs at the middle and high school level regularly use the Design Thinking process to teach students a set of skills and attitudes that develop perseverance, critical thinking, and creativity. In this session, attendees will participate in the Design Thinking process, understand how this process is used in Sociedad Latina, and learn how to embed Design Thinking into any workshop or coaching session with youth.

Option 4 - Metacognition Activities for Afterschool and Summer Programs

Location: Metcalf Hall Large

Facilitators:

- Caitlin McCormick, *Manager of Training and Curriculum*, The PEAR Institute
- Melina O'Grady, *School Support Coach and Trainer*, The PEAR Institute

Awareness of our own thoughts and learning processes, or metacognition, makes us better and more independent learners. In this session, learn about metacognition and easy activities for building it in youth of all ages, to help them ACHIEVE in school and life.



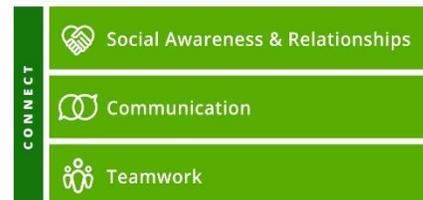
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Connect: Workshop Descriptions

12:30 – 1:30 PM

The Connect skills help young people develop healthy, supportive relationships with peers and adults – including those from diverse backgrounds and cultures – and make contributions to their community.



Option 1 – Building Trust and Community Teamwork

Location: Metcalf Hall Small

Facilitator:

- Hawa Yassin, *President of ACEDONE Youth in Charge*, African Community Economic Development of New England (ACEDONE)

ACEDONE's programs serve elementary and middle school students with a focus on recent refugees and immigrants. These students often have to overcome cultural and social-emotional barriers in addition to academic barriers, requiring a wraparound network of support. ACEDONE will share how they facilitate understanding and trust among youth, families, schools, and volunteers through a foundation of social relationships, cultural education, and building trust across the community.

Option 2 - ACT Skills Mapping for Program Development

Location: GSU Alley (Located in the basement)

Facilitators:

- Marissa Rodriguez, *Director of Learning and Program Development*, Scholar Athletes
- Lisa Fortenberry-Spaloss, *Managing Director of Program Services*, Scholar Athletes

Scholar Athletes will be sharing learnings from their Playbook Pilot. In this session, attendees will learn how to map ACT skills to their program model, determine whether young people they serve have achieved proficiency in these skills, and use this information to develop or evolve program offerings.

Participants will be able to:

- *Identify which ACT skills most closely align with their program, with particular focus on the Connect domain.*
- *Give examples of what mastery of their selected skill looks like for young people in their program.*
- *Develop competencies and learning objectives (for use in program/curriculum development) based on the identified ACT skills.*

Option 3 – Connecting to Succeed

Location: East Balcony (Above Metcalf Hall)

Facilitators:

- Ashton Smith, *Outreach Manager*, Courageous Sailing
- Jen Bodde, *Director of Education*, Courageous Sailing

Connections among youth and staff are fundamental to Courageous Sailing's programs. In this session, attendees will build a foundation of connection, work together as a team, and debrief their experience to identify teaching moments for connection. Courageous Sailing will also share how their reflections have informed their evolving curriculum on conflict resolution, self-regulation, and social-emotional learning.

Option 4 - Using Art and Literature to Build Empathy

Location: Metcalf Hall Large

Facilitators:

- Caitlin McCormick, *Manager of Training and Curriculum*, The PEAR Institute
- Melina O'Grady, *School Support Coach and Trainer*, The PEAR Institute

Drama, literature, and film can be powerful tools to teach perspective-taking, build emotional intelligence, and develop empathy. In this session, learn what research tells us about empathy and practice arts-based strategies for helping youth of all ages CONNECT with others.



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Thrive: Workshop Descriptions

1:45 – 2:45 PM

The Thrive skills help young people recognize and manage their emotions, anticipate the impact of their behavior on others, and take ownership over their actions.



Option 1 - Understanding the Social-Emotional Needs of Youth

Location: GSU Alley (Located in the basement)

Facilitator:

- Misael Martinez, *Director*, Berklee City Music

Berklee City Music will share how they go beyond the music to address the social-emotional needs of the high school students who attend their afterschool music program. In this session, attendees will hear about best practices and testimony from Berklee City Music alumni.

Option 2 - Being Your Best Self: Supporting Student Success

Location: East Balcony (Above Metcalf Hall)

Facilitators:

- Thuan Nguyen, *Math & Science Academic Coordinator*, Sportsmen's Tennis and Enrichment Center
- Tia Lites, *Academic & Curriculum Advisor*, Sportsmen's Tennis and Enrichment Center

Sportsmen's Tennis will share holistic practices to support student effort and growth through their philosophy of "being your best self." They will be sharing their philosophy and program practices around:

- *using mindfulness strategies to help students tap into their inner strengths,*
- *promoting self-regulation and control amongst students,*
- *developing a growth mindset along with perseverance and resilience,*
- *cultivating a sense of responsibility, honesty, and integrity,*
- *and encouraging a capacity for empathy and gratitude.*

Option 3 - Striving to Thrive: Feeling Safe, Feeling Big, Feeling Connected

Location: Metcalf Hall Small

Facilitators:

- Kasey Boston, *Director of Youth Development*, St. Stephen's Youth Programs
- Sarah O'Connor, *Lead Organizer for Lenox Community*, St. Stephen's Youth Programs
- Megan Doe, *Youth Leadership Corps Coordinator*, St. Stephen's Youth Programs

St. Stephen's will share their countercultural model for developing positive youth relationships and programming. They will share how systemic power analysis informs their program philosophy, such as:

- *using the Circle of Care to meet the day-to-day needs of students, families, and communities;*
- *organizing to change the systems of oppression that create the inequalities that shape the lives of young people in areas with racism and a dearth of economic opportunity;*
- *and showing how they use trauma-informed, youth-centered frameworks to coach youth toward growth mindset, efficacy, and self-regulation as tools towards successful adulthood.*

Option 4 - Neuroplasticity, the Brain, and Student Self-Concept and Growth

Location: Metcalf Hall Large

Facilitators:

- Caitlin McCormick, *Manager of Training and Curriculum*, The PEAR Institute
- Melina O'Grady, *School Support Coach and Trainer*, The PEAR Institute

Neuroplasticity is our brain's lifelong ability to grow, change, repair itself, and develop new connections. We can use it to change mindsets and behaviors, build resilience, and help youth believe in themselves and their potential. In this session, learn about neuroplasticity and how to tap into this powerful capacity to help all youth THRIVE.



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