

YOUTH WORK INSTITUTE**Program and Professional Development Opportunities****CULTURALLY RESPONSIVE YOUTH WORK MATTERS**

Examines and develops the concept of creating inclusive youth programs. Participants will explore their own and other cultural identities and examine how these critical elements impact interactions with youth. Also included is a discussion on how a culturally responsive practice creates a sense of belonging and empowerment in young people. Foundations include both lived experience and research by Milton & Janet Bennett, Uri Bronfenbrenner, Peggy MacIntosh, and Beverly Daniel Tatum.

DELIBERATE PRACTICE MATTERS IN YOUTH WORK

Youth workers face challenging situations that require them to address multiple, often competing considerations in their daily work with young people. In this foundational youth work class, dig into the sticky challenges and issues of youth work and examine various ways to respond to real-life dilemmas of everyday practice.

EVALUATION MATTERS

We will work with your program to design an evaluation cycle on youth outcomes, such as academic, social, emotional, civic, leadership, etc. Course facilitators will provide information, skills, and hands-on support to create survey instruments, test, analyze, and report on youth outcomes. This course will build capacity of staff to evaluate your own program. No previous program evaluation experience is required.

INTENTIONAL PROGRAM DESIGN MATTERS

This signature program introduces the theory of intentionality as a framework for creating new "architecture" in a youth program. The class will examine how program content and intentions can be matched with positive youth development principles and lived out in structure and design. Participants will learn about effective program design and expand upon ideas and options for how and why we develop program structure. A program design audit and redesign plan is included. The course is offered over 3 sessions with some work to do on your own.

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LEADERSHIP MATTERS

Stepping into a leadership role in the field of youth development is often an on-the-job learning experience. Staff choosing a career in youth development don't begin by hoping to supervise adults, manage budgets and conduct evaluations; they enter the field because of a passion and interest in supporting youth. This signature program explores the unique context of youth work management and leadership, and provides professional development strategies specifically targeted to youth work practice.

QUALITY MATTERS FOR PROGRAM TEAMS

A long-term assessment and learning project that provides participants with information, skills, and hands-on support to improve the quality of their youth programs. With the support of project coaches, a team of participants will learn more about the essential components of a high-quality youth program and how to create environments that are positive places for young people to develop. At the core of Quality Matters is the Youth Program Quality Assessment (YPQA), a nationally recognized observational measurement tool that provides a valid and reliable way to assess program quality.

YOUTH ENGAGEMENT MATTERS

Training based on a new research framework, Rings of Engagement, which emphasizes the range of types of youth engagement and youth-adult partnerships. The series includes a deep dive into four ways in which we can engage youth:

- through participation in programs,
- by fostering individual passion through experiences and activities,
- by creating space and place for youth voice in programs,
- and through collective action to make change with youth and adults as partners.

YOUTH WORK MATTERS

This exploration of the foundations and theories of positive youth development is critical to how we think about and work with young people. Theoretical foundations include the eight basic youth needs, ecological context, assets and resiliency, and experiential learning. This class includes significant dialogue time with peers on how these theoretical foundations can play out in daily practice. Workshops are customized, but one of the most popular is Building Relationships with Youth.