

Your News from ^{The} Aspire Registry

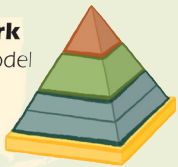
Connecting Early Childhood
Professionals in New York State

August
2016



FAST FACTS

New York
Pyramid Model
State



In the April 2016 edition of our newsletter, we featured the New York State Pyramid Model Partnership. Check out how things have been going so far:

New York has trained

73

Master Cadre trainers



As of August 1, 2016,

59

Prekindergarten or Infant
and Toddler modules ses-
sions have been delivered



There have been

451

attendees
in these sessions

There are over 100 future
Pyramid Model sessions
on the Training Calendar!

Career Pathways in Early Childhood: Real Life Stories

This month we are lucky to hear from Aspire member Marilyn Ballard! Marilyn has had a long and varied career in early childhood, starting as a Family Child Care provider, becoming a consultant at the Child Care Resource Network, and most recently starting her own private coaching and training practice. Marilyn is a fantastic example of one of the many different career paths that are available to early childhood professionals and we couldn't wait to share her story with the rest of our members.

"I remember thinking that my work with children would be temporary when I opened my family child care in 1989. I would watch a few children while I sorted out the next plan for my two boys and me. But I learned very quickly that there was nothing temporary about my passion for working with young children and I focused on expanding my business and earning my degrees.

Pretty soon I was developing trainings for other providers and eventually I was hired as a consultant at the Child Care Resource Network. The first time I was asked to present at the Family Child Care Association of New York State Conference, I realized that my passion for early childhood went beyond teaching the children. I wanted to teach the teachers as well.

If I would have told my 33-year-old self who started that family child care that this would not be a temporary job, but instead the beginning of an amazing lifelong journey and the most gratifying work on the planet, I might have been skeptical. But indeed, after selling my daycares and being able to "teach the teachers" on a full-time basis these past 8 years, that journey continues on. My love for this field has only grown, and I am grateful to the many amazing individuals I have come to know locally and across the state. I have transitioned again this year back to my own private practice of coaching and training, which allows me the opportunity to do what I love: train and coach full-time.

They always say, find what you are passionate about and it will never feel like work. I have clearly found what I am passionate about – supporting early childhood professionals."



Marilyn A. Ballard is an Independent Consultant in the early childhood field conducting trainings across the state as well as one-on-one leadership coaching. She is currently an Adjunct Professor at CUNY School of Professional Studies as well as a member of the Master Cadre for the New York State Pyramid Model Partnership.

Our Second Annual Focus Group!

Here at New York Works for Children, we strive to provide relevant resources to our members. We value your input and feedback and we want to know how to better support you in your important work. That is why this summer we held our second annual focus group.

Not everyone is able to come to our Brooklyn office location, so this year we held our focus group online! The individuals who attended were able to see each other via webcam and communicate with us and the other attendees remotely. It was a great way for us to hear from our members across all the state.

Participants discussed the Aspire application experience from start to finish. They shared how they heard about the registry, and what they like and dislike about the professional development system as a whole. We talked about the New York Works for Children website, possible new promotional items, and how we can make sure

that you feel connected to your colleagues across the state.

We received some extremely valuable insight from those who attended the focus group and would like to thank everyone who took the time to participate. **Thank you Julie Burt, Jasmine Salem, Ann Shear, and Jackie Zaita!** If you missed the opportunity to be a part of this year's focus group, don't worry! Feel free to email us at info@nyworksforchildren.org with your feedback.



SPOTLIGHT This month's feature is none other than our very own Registry Administrator, Diana Diaz.



Diana Diaz
THE ASPIRE REGISTRY ADMINISTRATOR

“ Four years ago on my birthday, I received the good news that I was hired as a manager for The Aspire Registry... what a perfect gift! As someone who is passionate about early childhood education, I've always believed in systems that promote professionalism and growth— systems that can support us in bringing recognition to this important field. I love The Aspire Registry because we are committed to supporting the hard working and dedicated professionals in early care and education.

I have an amazing team that works with me diligently every day and we recognize the important work that early childhood professionals engage in daily. This month we celebrate another anniversary for our registry— and my birthday! There have been so many accomplishments since 2012, but I can confidently say that the best days for The Aspire Registry are yet to come. Cheers! ”