

Future Ready, Starts Today, 14th Annual Conference • Blacksburg, VA • March 27, 2023

About VPOST and Our Conference

At the Virginia Partnership for Out-of-School Time (VPOST), our vision is a future where all Virginia families have the out-of-school-time support they need to thrive. As the state-wide OST network, we pursue this vision through professional development, quality, and policy initiatives. Our annual conference provides professional learning and networking for hundreds of practitioners and champions across the Commonwealth.

This year's conference theme, "Future Ready, Starts Today" speaks to the need to prepare young people for a future we might not yet imagine while recognizing the importance of the here and now. There is an old adage that the only constant is change. For the average person, the pandemic was unforeseen. No doubt it challenged the status quo and demanded that we adapt. Now as we are in the process of redefining our new normal, what is worth carrying forward into the future, and what are we ready to leave in the past? Technology was certainly a major contributor to our adaption. How will technology continue to challenge the status quo and shape the workforce of tomorrow? What skillsets and mindsets can we adopt today to help us and the young people we serve to prepare for the future? How can we take a strengths-based approach to grow each person's unique individual talents, skills, and abilities? How can we be future-oriented while remaining rooted in the power of the present day?

The need for the out-of-school time community to coalesce and be guided by leaders in the field is crucial to serving the young people of Virginia. VPOST is looking for those that have expert insights, proven strategies, inspiration, and innovations in the field to meet this challenge!

Our Audience

Approximately 200 active leaders in education and out-of-school time, representing thousands of youth from across the Commonwealth. Our conference is designed for Afterschool/Summer Learning Programs, Schools, Community Centers, Mentoring Leaders, Libraries, Parks & Recreation Departments, Government Agencies, Faith-Based Programs, Early Childhood/Childcare Leaders, Nonprofit Organizations, and Business Partners.

Presentation Details

All workshop presentations are 55 minutes in length and should have an effective mix of information and interactivity. Presentations should reflect the conference theme, strands and align with VPOST's Quality Standards. In order to be considered as a potential workshop presenter, content must fulfill a professional development need for attendees and may not be profit-promoting. VPOST encourages individuals or businesses seeking product or service promotion to register as a vendor for our exhibit hall. VPOST will accept only one proposal per individual or organizational department. Please email Christine at Christine.jones-monaccio@v-post.org for more information on becoming a sponsor and/or exhibitor.

Workshop Strands

The conference strands are clusters of VPOST revised Quality Standards, which are set to be released in mid to late 2023. Presenters may pick one or more aspects of each strand. Furthermore, all of the strands are interrelated and while only one strand can be selected, presenters are invited to focus on subject matter that spans across the clusters.

- Relationships • Partnerships and Networking • Inclusion and Belonging
- Supporting Student Success • Child and Youth Voice • Active Engaged Learning
- Leadership and Staff Development • Continuous Improvement
- Safe Environments • Health and Wellbeing

Submitting your Proposal

Proposals should include:

- A description of the workshop and title
- A session outline, including a timeline for the 55-minute session
- Clearly stated goals
- Relevance to selected strand and conference theme

Selection

Every workshop proposal will be evaluated and scored by the Virginia Partnership for Out-of-School Time (VPOST) Conference Committee. Priority points will be given to those that have not presented at VPOST's conference in the year prior, in order to provide new content to attendees. If selected, you will be notified by close of business, on **February 3, 2023**.

Logistics to Note

Conference Admission: Each accepted workshop will receive **one** complimentary conference registration. The presenter(s) will have access to the entirety of the conference.

Dates at a Glance:

Monday, January 20: Workshop Proposal Deadline

Friday, January 27 (updated): Workshop Proposal Notification

Wednesday, February 3 (updated): Confirm Conference Booklet Content (Workshop Description, Bio, Headshot)

Wednesday, March 1: Final Workshop Content Due

Sunday, March 26: Pre-Conference Networking Social

Monday, March 27: Conference

When and Where to Submit

Please complete the RFP form at:

<https://forms.gle/nBtbVu9z8sJbCQwg8>

Questions may be directed to Christine Jones Monaccio, Professional Development and Quality Coordinator at christine.jones-monaccio@v-post.org. The proposal deadline is close of business on **January 16, 2023**.