

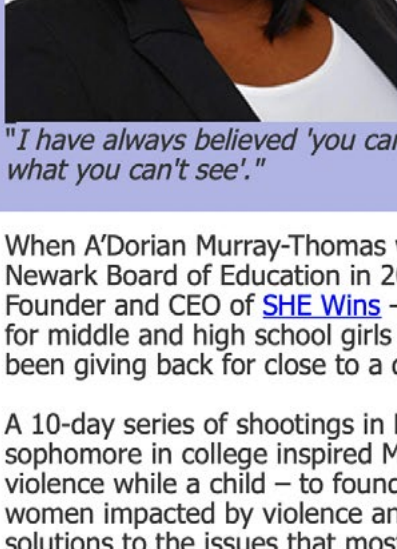


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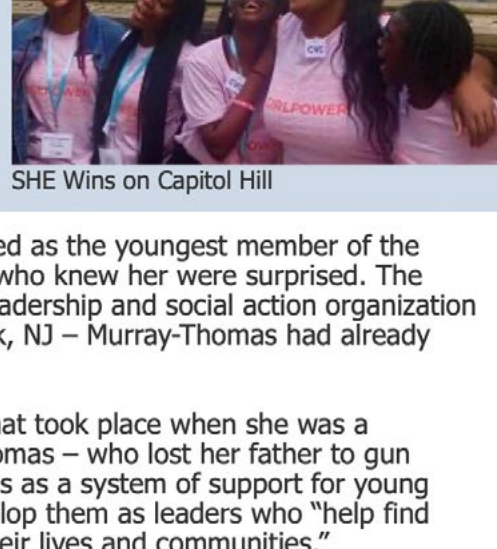
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*Play it Forward* is a quarterly newsletter that introduces you to the builders and influencers of the Afterschool Development movement, offers updates on the latest and most innovative thinking and practices in the field and lets you know how you can become involved. *Play it Forward* also provides a forum for exploring some of the latest topics of interest in the Afterschool Development community. To find out more about Afterschool Development [CLICK HERE](#).

## In the Field



"I have always believed 'you can't be what you can't see'."



SHE Wins on Capitol Hill

When A'Dorian Murray-Thomas was elected as the youngest member of the Newark Board of Education in 2019, few who knew her were surprised. The Founder and CEO of [SHE Wins](#) – a free leadership and social action organization for middle and high school girls in Newark, NJ – Murray-Thomas had already been giving back for close to a decade.

A 10-day series of shootings in Newark that took place when she was a sophomore in college inspired Murray-Thomas – who lost her father to gun violence while a child – to found SHE Wins as a system of support for young women impacted by violence and to develop them as leaders who "help find solutions to the issues that most affect their lives and communities."

SHE Wins recently launched "Girl Talk," a virtual space in which girls could experience the "emotional sense of safety so necessary for kids whose lives have been completely disrupted by the pandemic." A member of the Afterschool Development Working Group in Newark, Murray-Thomas feels strongly that educators, school administrators and others who serve youth need to be intentionally centered around youth development. "It is important that we give youth every opportunity to see the world and themselves in new and more powerful ways."

## building the future of afterschool development

Even as the afterschool field continues to grapple with unprecedented challenges, interest in learning and development – and what research is saying about the relationship between them – is growing.

In July, the Afterschool Development Working Group (ADWG) in Chicago invited Deborah Moroney, a managing director at the [American Institutes for Research \(AIR\)](#), to share findings from AIR's [Science of Learning and Development \(SoLD\) Initiative](#), which has compiled a body of evidence from neuroscience and other fields that highlights the unique role afterschool can play in shaping a new kind of conversation about how young people learn and grow. As she noted in her remarks, the SoLD findings "...demonstrate the importance of settings and relationships for learning and development, emphasizing many of the same elements that we know are central to high-quality afterschool programs."

ADWG member Tamisha Gamble from Imagine Englewood If commented, "This conversation was a breath of fresh air given the pressure we face every day working on the front lines. It is a tremendous effort to put all of this research into one framework to support people in the afterschool field to create more developmental programming and to advance staff training."

## On the cutting edge



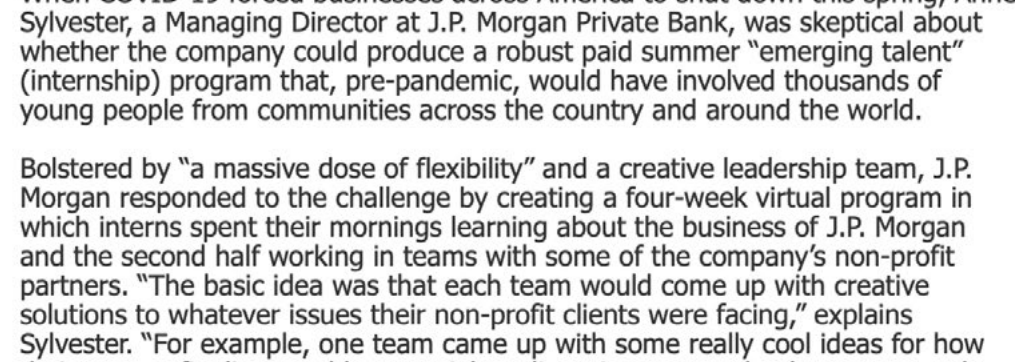
"We have to rethink the fundamental principles in which we are educating our children."

With the passing last month of educationalist and creativity expert Sir Ken Robinson – an outspoken advocate for the importance of prioritizing creativity in education – the Afterschool Development movement and the afterschool field has lost a good friend. In his book, *Out of Our Minds*, Sir Ken wrote, "to realize our true creative potential we need to think differently about ourselves and to act differently towards each other. We must learn to be creative."

Sir Ken founded Artsworks, a national, independent youth arts development agency in the UK that works to "raise standards in youth arts work and increase opportunities for young people, aged 12-25, particularly for those considered most at risk."

We invite you to honor Sir Ken's memory and legacy by watching or re-watching his talk, [Do Schools Kill Creativity?](#), which, with over 67 million views, is the most watched TED Talk of all time, or the animated [Changing Educational Paradigms](#).

## Philanthropic Partnerships



Anne Sylvester (center) with some of the firm's summer interns.

When COVID-19 forced businesses across America to shut down this spring, Anne Sylvester, a Managing Director at J.P. Morgan Private Bank, was skeptical about whether the company could produce a robust paid summer "emerging talent" (internship) program that, pre-pandemic, would have involved thousands of young people from communities across the country and around the world.

Bolstered by "a massive dose of flexibility" and a creative leadership team, J.P. Morgan responded to the challenge by creating a four-week virtual program in which interns spent their mornings learning about the business of J.P. Morgan and the second half working in teams with some of the company's non-profit partners. "The basic idea was that each team would come up with creative solutions to whatever issues their non-profit clients were facing," explains Sylvester. "For example, one team came up with some really cool ideas for how their non-profit client could use social media to improve and enhance outreach efforts during COVID."

"When they made their final presentations, I was astounded and impressed by the work they had done." She believes that "whatever we lost, we more than gained back" by giving young people the opportunity to work in groups, to interact with clients, to build a presentation and to present their work both internally and at client meetings." Sylvester reports there is "resounding" interest from the company in "finding ways to make this something J.P. Morgan does on a more permanent basis."

## A new conversation about Evaluation

"...all evaluators must now become developmental evaluators..."

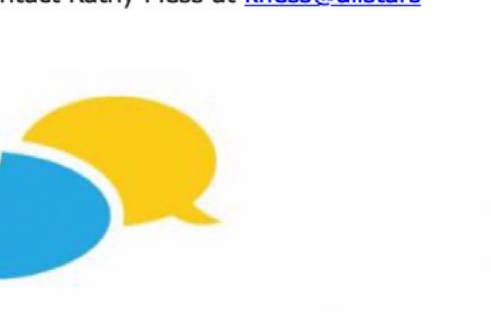
In a blog post for Blue Marble Evaluation, Michael Patton, the Founder and CEO of Utilization-Focused Evaluation in Minneapolis, offers his thoughts on the [Evaluation Implications of the Coronavirus Global Health Pandemic Emergency](#). According to Patton, "...all evaluators must now become developmental evaluators, capable of adapting to complex dynamics systems, preparing for the unknown, for uncertainties, turbulence, lack of control, nonlinearities, and for emergence of the unexpected."

Patton advises evaluators to embrace, rather than resist, change: "Program goals may appropriately change. Measures of effectiveness may change. Target populations may change. Implementation protocols may change. Outcome measures may change. This means that evaluation designs, data collection, reporting timelines, and criteria will and should change ...this pandemic is reflecting the fragmented and fragile nature of current systems, inadequate for a just and equitable world."

### Meet and work with some of the dynamic leaders in Afterschool Development!

You are invited to participate in upcoming online workshops and courses from the All Stars Project's Afterschool Development Initiative. On October 2 and October 16, ASP is offering *Creating Developmental and Empowering Conversations with Young People, an Interactive Workshop. The Future of Afterschool*, a five-session course will begin on October 24.

[Click here](#) for detailed information or contact Kathy Fiess at [kfiess@allstars.org](mailto:kfiess@allstars.org) or (212) 356-8487.



let's talk.

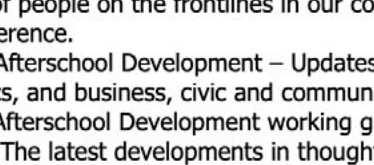
Please share your responses to anything in Play it Forward and thoughts you have on Afterschool Development and what it means for our communities and country.

**TELL US WHAT YOU THINK**



spread the word.

Share Play It Forward with others and invite them to subscribe.



coming up...

In the Next Quarter Issue of Play it Forward:

- In the Field – Profiles of people on the frontlines in our communities who are changing lives and making a difference.
- Building the Future of Afterschool Development – Updates on the issues that practitioners, academics, and business, civic and community leaders are coming together to discuss in Afterschool Development working groups and conferences.
- On the Cutting Edge – The latest developments in thought leadership, research and policy helping to shape the conversation about Afterschool Development, education and poverty in America.
- Philanthropic Partnerships – Featuring partners and funders who are stepping up and investing in Afterschool Development and its growth nationally.
- A New Conversation about Evaluation – Highlights of the growing national conversation about evaluation and the need for new tools.