

For Immediate Release
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MOST NETWORK RELEASES NEW COLLEGE AND CAREER READINESS TOOLKIT *Afterschool & Summer Programs Prepare Students for Work and Higher Education*

With 80% of a young person’s life spent outside of school, afterschool programs can play an important role in providing guidance, support, and inspiration for students’ career and college pathways. Sadly, many students miss out on the valuable resources and opportunities these programs have to offer. Intentional career and college readiness is often not a priority in middle school, while many high schools simply cannot cover all of the bases alone. With this challenge in mind, the Maryland Out of School Time Network has developed a new College and Career Readiness (CCR) Toolkit with funding support from the C.S. Mott Foundation.

The CCR Toolkit is a comprehensive roadmap designed to help students and afterschool programs navigate the complex world of higher education and career readiness. Broken down into six units, the Toolkit offers detailed guides on a wide range of topics, from supporting first-generation college students and DREAMers, to exploring careers and planning for college. How-To sections on facilitating career fairs, managing college visits, and creating credit-bearing opportunities are also included. The toolkit even provides easy implementation resources like detailed virtual learning activities and convenient handouts for both students and families.

Afterschool and summer programs can support students’ college and career plans by offering opportunities to develop skills, use teamwork to tackle complex projects, address real world challenges, and connect students directly to work experiences like internships. With greater intentional focus on Career and College Readiness, out-of-school time programs are a powerful complement to in-school efforts.

The CCR Toolkit is available for free online at www.mostnetwork.org/initiatives/CCR. MOST will be providing an introductory webinar on the toolkit on March 3 at 10 a.m. register at <https://bit.ly/CCR-Intro>

The Maryland Out of School Time Network (MOST) is a statewide youth development organization, dedicated to more and better opportunities in the out of school hours for all of Maryland's young people. MOST is the state affiliate to the National AfterSchool Association, the voice of the out-of-school time profession and one of the 50 Statewide Afterschool Networks funded by the Charles Stewart Mott Foundation.