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Afterschool Matters is a national, peer-reviewed journal dedicated to promoting professionalism, scholarship, and consciousness in the field of afterschool education. Published by the National Institute on Out-of-School Time with legacy support from the Robert Browne Foundation, the journal serves those involved in developing and running programs for youth during the out-of-school hours, in addition to those engaged in research and shaping policy. For information on *Afterschool Matters* and the Afterschool Matters Initiative, contact Georgia Hall
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WELCOME

In January 2020, we were having conversations about how this year, because of its very name, would be a year of reflection. We would use our 20/20 lens to clarify our visions of our work, life, and family and to reflect on the surrounding world. January is named for Janus, the Roman god of beginnings and endings. Janus, who controlled doors and gateways, was usually depicted with two faces, one looking back and one looking forward.

Looking back on 2020 so far, the year certainly has not been what we expected when we looked forward from January. Still, though 2020 has been shattering in many ways, it has prompted many to rededicate ourselves to reflection.

In the out-of-school time (OST) field, we have had to refocus on how to distill the most important elements of high-quality programming and realize those elements online. We're reflecting and acting on ways to support our colleagues who teach traditional school. We've been leveraging our unique relationships with youth and their loved ones to step into the void left by pandemic-ravaged systems to bring food, technology, at-home learning, and friendship to thousands of families.

Here at NIOST, we have learned a great deal this year. Our researchers observed over 200 hours of summer online academic and general enrichment delivered through partnerships between schools and community-based organizations in the Boston Summer Learning Community. We saw OST professionals exercising the flexibility and creativity that characterize our profession to transition from in-person to virtual delivery. See our website for a quick snapshot: <https://www.NIOST.org/Summer2020>.

As we push forward into late fall and winter, NIOST and OST professionals everywhere will continue to partner with schools and teachers, build on what we have learned, and equip children and teens to meet the challenges of the months ahead.

The articles in this issue of *Afterschool Matters* reflect the broad range of program activity, scholarship, and youth outcomes research in the OST field. We continue to do all this work—summer and STEM programming, digital badging, project-based learning, mentoring, social and emotional skill building, and volunteer management—whether we are in person or remote! If there is one clear vision for the OST field in 2020, this is it: We are going to carry on.



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