



Keynote Speaker
**Kathryn King,
MSRA**

Lessons from the Field to Support Inclusive Afterschool Programs

Often in our lives as afterschool staff we face unusual challenges, and sometimes these moments can change the trajectory of our career path. When Kat started her career as an afterschool director, she had several of these moments when youth with significant disabilities wanted to join her program. Kat had no idea what inclusion was or how to support them. Kat will share stories of her journey from afterschool director to inclusion specialist, and some lessons learned along the way. This presentation will include an overview of the benefits of inclusive programs, explore the current trends in respectful language, and provide examples of true social inclusion in afterschool programs.

Who is Kat?

With more than 25 years' experience in inclusive out-of-school time programs, Kathryn (Kat) King has provided training and technical assistance to thousands of youth development professionals, educators and parents to create inclusive environments where no youth is excluded. She has been a presenter at conferences and professional development events all over the US and internationally including England, Japan, South Korea, and Bavaria. Her articles and research have been published in Camping Magazine, Journal of Parks and Recreation Administration, and Discovery Magazine. In 2016, Kat was recognized for her impact in after school programs with an Inclusion Champion Award at the Utah Afterschool Network Jumpstart Conference.

Kat is the Business Development Manager at Kids Included Together (KIT). KIT helps others meaningfully include youth with disabilities through inclusion training, policy development and sharing best practices information and research.

Kat, what inspires you to do social justice work?

“I am inspired when I see a child make their first real, authentic friend. For kids with disabilities, this is not as easy as it seems. I love helping create environments where youth with and without disabilities can celebrate differences and feel like they belong. In my lifetime, my dream is to see every youth have the opportunity to be included in the same afterschool program as their brother or sister, cousin, or friend; in their neighborhood, with the kids on their street, not across town.”

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