



Lift Off WNY | E-News | August 2023

Lift Off's Summer Learning Series July & August 2023



As summer comes to a close, so does Lift Off's 2023 Summer Learning Series. This virtual series included three sessions, keynoted by some wonderful movers and shakers in the early childhood sector.

July's program, "A Closer Look: An Exploration of Help Me Grow WNY's Data Dashboard", featured a presentation from Lead Data Strategist, [Emily Oaks of CCNY, Inc.](#) Emily has 14 years of experience working in the non-profit sector, providing direct service to clients as well as developing and implementing complex programs with community members and partners to achieve results. During this session Emily highlighted [Help Me Grow WNY's data dashboard](#), a community resource that offers real-time early childhood developmental data to programs and agencies in the region. Emily shared an example of how early care and education programs use of the data to identify what sites and classrooms have children who are recommended for monitoring or early intervention and are using that information to build additional classroom support and professional development offerings in their programs.

The August session, "State of Early Literacy In New York" featured a presentation from [Jeff Smink](#), the Deputy Director at The Education Trust-New York, a statewide policy and advocacy organization dedicated to educational

equity. During the session, Jeff shared their recent report, "[The State of Early Literacy in New York](#)". Jeff provided an overview of their ten-point policy plan to support increasing literacy rates in the state. The session then launched into an interactive discussion between our host and attendees. The presentation concluded with the reminder that through a united front and community effort, this is a solvable crisis.

If you missed the July or August session, please see above for the July recording and follow the link below for the August recording.

August Summer Learning Series Recording

Liftoff Leadership Spotlight



Liftoff would like to congratulate Karen Nlemic Buchheit, Executive Director of the [Cattaraugus Region Community Foundation](#) on her recent retirement announcement. Karen actively championed Liftoff's early childhood priorities and was a longstanding member of Liftoff's Communications & Events committee. We are grateful for Karen's expertise and strong support of our work since Liftoff's launch in 2018. Best wishes, Karen!

We look forward our continued work with [Kirk Windus](#) in Cattaraugus County, who has been named as CRCF's next Executive Director.



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