**STEM Afterschool Success Story Gathering Template**

Beyond School Bells works to communicate the value and importance of STEM in afterschool programs and how it contributes to Nebraska youth’s school success and confidence in ability. The most powerful stories are those that come directly from program providers and focus on Nebraska children and families who participate in the program. Specifically, we’re looking for stories that showcase how STEM learning in afterschool programs contributes to interest in STEM, acquiring 21st century skills, or college or career readiness. Please read the instructions carefully before submitting your story.

**How to Submit a Success Story**

Step 1 – Download and save this template on your computer.

Step 2 - Complete the template.

Step 3 – Save the completed template on your computer and then send it as an attachment with related photo(s) to: [jjones@nebraskachildren.org](mailto:jjones@nebraskachildren.org)

More information about photos is provided at the end of this document.

**Basic Information:**

Program Name:

Number of Youth Served:

Ages of Kids Served:

Grades of Kids Served:

Program Contact Person:

Program Contact Email Address:

Program Contact Phone Number:

Program Website (if applicable) and any social media platforms:

**Types of Activities Offered:** (please be specific and avoid jargon, for example: ‘junior robotics league’—not ‘science activities’)

**Creating Your Success Story:**

**First:** Think about the ways your program: 1) motivates and excites kids participating in STEM to learn even more and raises interest in STEM; 2) helps students develop 21st century skills like problem solving, critical thinking or teamwork; or 3) supports college and career readiness.

**Then:** Select one of the topics (motivation, 21st century skills, college and career readiness) that best suits your program’s strengths and successes. Answer one or two questions related to the topic you choose. Include details that will help others visualize activities kids are engaged in and understand how those experiences impact kids and their families. It may be helpful to have a specific child or family in mind as you’re describing experiences and impact.

**Finally**: If possible, include a compelling quote from a child, parent, or employer that supports your response (along with name and age of student quoted, name of parent, or name/title if quote is from local business).

**Motivation Questions**

Describe a specific example that demonstrates how kids’ experiences at your afterschool or summer program helped ignite interest in STEM subjects, or gain employment or skills in a STEM-related field.

Share an instance of a kid’s or kids’ behavior change from disinterest to excitement around STEM activities. Write about which specific activity started the turnaround and how it has fostered a sense of leadership, pride or confidence that others (parents, teachers, school staff, etc.) have noticed.

QUOTE:

**21st Century Skills**

Do you have a student or students that you have seen tremendous growth in this area? Is this student persevering in his/her work when in the past he/she might have given up, interacting better with his/her peers, and/or taking leadership opportunities seriously? If so, share his/her story and how the program has had a role in this transformation.

Are students in your program handing problems differently? Are they reasoning through and analyzing issues around them to produce better outcomes for themselves and other students? Share an instance of this. If you can, give a comparison of what this looked like before program participation.

How have you seen curiosity and creativity grow within the kids that participate in your program? Share specific examples.

Does your afterschool program give kids opportunities to engage with positive role models, staff, or counselors? Describe the impact of those opportunities on a specific youth or set of youth.

QUOTE:

**College and Career Readiness**

How is your program engaging students in the different science career fields? Describe 2-3 programs/activities that are illustrative of students actively learning about different opportunities within STEM--science, technology, engineering and math. Please be as descriptive as possible and help the reader visualize the activities.

Is a relationship with a local business or university opening kids eyes to the science careers that are available in their community through internships, career days, apprenticeships and/or mentorships? If yes, please use specific examples.

How does your program help prepare kids to succeed in your community/state’s local workforce? (Please be specific. For example, if manufacturing is a dominant sector in your community, how does your program prepare kids for manufacturing jobs?)

How is your program changing the conversations kids are having around what they want to be when they grow up? Are students broadening their idea of what careers and/or possibilities that are open to them?

QUOTE:

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**Photos:** Please submit high resolution digital photos that feature kids working with other kids or an adult or kids actively participating in hands-on learning or physical activity. All children/adults featured in the photos must have a signed photo release on file with your program. The release should give approval for the photos to be used on non-commercial websites like Beyond School Bells or Nebraska STEM websites. If needed, providers may request and use the Afterschool Alliance photo release.  
  
Provide descriptions of the activity in the photo so captions can be created if necessary. Preferable file formats for photos are .jpg or .png