
Subject: Beyond School Bells Newsletter-August 2022

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From: Beyond School Bells



August 2022

News & Policy

The Promise of Back to Afterschool!

It's that time of year. Children and parents across the state are once again entering the new school (and afterschool) year full of the promise of new beginnings and opportunities to learn and grow.

Despite the challenges of planning and operating community-wide afterschool programs during the third year of a global pandemic, the arrival of the 2022-23 year brings with it the energy that is palpable whether you are relaunching existing or starting new afterschool programs that excite, engage and inspire youth across Nebraska.

That promise of new beginnings extends to all of us at Beyond School Bells. We are excited about the opportunities we have to support afterschool programs in urban and rural communities across Nebraska in the year ahead. Through a partnership with the Nebraska Department of Education utilizing COVID relief funding that we have braided with resources from a host of other funders, BSB is directly involved in supporting thirty-six communities start new or grow existing afterschool and summer programs serving thousands of youth. This work builds on and expands BSB's role facilitating **Nebraska's ELO Innovation Network** and is driven by our long-term goal of developing high quality, cost-effective and locally sustainable ELO programs in every Nebraska community.

U.S. Department of Education's Engage Every Student Initiative



We are far from alone as we start our journey in this new afterschool year. In communities across Nebraska, parents and afterschool and summer learning advocates are working with school district staff to provide the engaging experiences that students need in programs providing critical support for working parents. Nationally, our efforts coincide with those of the US Department of Education and other youth development advocates that recently launched the [Engage Every Student initiative](#). This initiative is designed to ensure that every young person in America that wants to participate in an afterschool or summer program has access to a high quality, affordable one in their community. It's an ambitious goal that we are proud to support and actively work towards here in Nebraska. After all that they have been through these past two years, all Nebraska youth deserve it.

We invite you to join in this effort as we start the 2022-23 year. Please contact us to learn more information about our work or how you might be able to get involved with out of school time learning efforts in your community.

Register for the September 16 GetConnected Conference Today!

A registration graphic for the GetConnected 2022 Nebraska Afterschool Conference. At the top, a green banner contains the text "SAVE THE DATE!". Below this is the "GetConnected" logo, which consists of a stylized green and blue 'G' icon followed by the text "GetConnected" in a green, sans-serif font. Underneath the logo, it says "2022 Nebraska Afterschool Conference" in a smaller font. The date "SEPTEMBER 16, 2022" is prominently displayed in large, bold, red letters. Below the date, the location "Holiday Inn Convention Center | Kearney, NE" is written in a smaller font. The central part of the graphic is a collage of colorful icons representing various aspects of education and community: a house with people, a graduation cap, a hand holding an apple, a group of people, a calendar, a handshake, a person at a computer, and a group of people. At the bottom left of the collage is a Twitter icon and the hashtag "#GetConnected2022". At the very bottom, a red banner contains the URL "https://www.education.ne.gov/21stcclc/nebraska-afterschool-conference/" in white text.

GetConnected Nebraska Afterschool Conference is Friday, September 16 at the Holiday Inn

Convention Center in Kearney, NE. GetConnected provides an opportunity to learn more about planning and implementing a quality afterschool or summer program. Sessions offered throughout the day target a variety of audiences, including program leaders, program staff, teachers, school administrators, community partners, and others interested in afterschool and summer learning opportunities for children and youth. For break-out room topics, the conference schedule, and lodging information, check out [NDE's conference page](#). Registration is open NOW, just click on the link below!

Register

Funding Opportunities

STEM Family Engagement Mini-Grants Applications due September 1



photo credit: Schuyler Community Schools Family Engagement Event

Only three weeks left! Applications to STEM Family Engagement (FE) Mini-Grants are open for the 2022-23 school year until **September 1st**. Grants will support staff professional development and enrich Family Engagement events throughout the coming year. Options include the following.

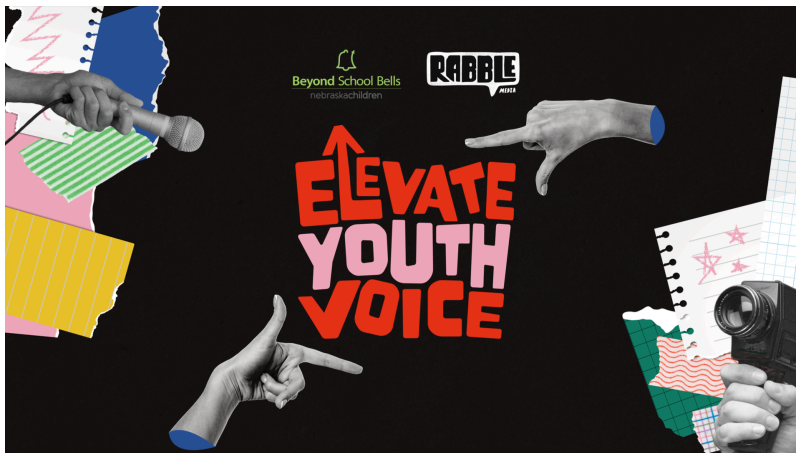
- Tier 1: STEM Family Engagement Professional Development
- Tier 1A: Caregiver Communication + Family Event
- Tier 2: STEM Family Engagement Enrichment; and
- Tier 3: STEM Family Engagement Innovation.

[Click here](#) to learn more and download an application today!

Resources & Curriculum

Start a Youth Videography Club in Your Program!

Interest due August 18



This fall, BSB will be kicking off its first ever Youth Videography clubs at high school and middle school Afterschool programs across the state. Through a partnership with Rabble Mill, BSB will support clubs to learn the basics of video equipment, production, and editing. Students will learn to creatively express their own voices through digital media arts and creative storytelling.

Clubs will receive 4K camcorders, microphones, and tripods to be used alongside Rabble Mill's expert guidance and peer feedback via FlipGrid. Not only will students gain skills to produce their own creative visions, their work will also contribute to promoting Afterschool in their communities and across Nebraska. Each club will start with something students know well: stories from within their Afterschool programs. Those and any future videos can be used to recruit incoming students, promote AS to community members, to market to prospective partners and funders and so much more.

If your Afterschool program would be interested in running a Youth Videography Club, please email Dakota Staggs (dstaggs@nebraskachildren.org) and Alison O'Toole (aotoole@nebraskachildren.org) by no later than August 18 as clubs will begin mid-September

Interested in high-quality STEM curriculum for your program?

Join an MGM Community of Practice!



Techbridge Girls Curriculum & Training

Techbridge Girls (TBG) is an award-winning national nonprofit bringing science, technology, engineering, and math (STEM) education to all girls across the U.S. TBG will offer three different curriculum training programs for afterschool staff:

- 1) Ignite for 3-8th grade youth,
- 2) Inspire for 4-5th grade girls, and
- 3) Changemakers for 6-8th grade girls.

Submit an interest form [here!](#)



Rural Teen Science Cafes

Teen Science Cafes are an ideal way of introducing youth to STEM careers that are hiding in plain sight in their rural communities—careers like engineering, disaster response, cybersecurity, advanced manufacturing, and aviation. The goal of this project is to impact underserved rural youth by cultivating a mindset among teens that STEM IS EVERYWHERE.

Submit an interest form [here!](#)



Click2Engineering Booster Pack

This community of practice is a component of Click2Engineering, an asynchronous, module-based online professional development program for out of school time (OST) educators. Participants in this community of practice get to be a part of developing future learning experiences and will have special access to existing Click2Engineering resources, including new curriculum and one-on-one coaching opportunities!

Submit an interest form [here!](#)



Afterschool Math Plus Curriculum and Training

In this workshop series, participants will be introduced to evidence-based strategies to support students in developing a positive math identity by exploring mathematics in everyday experiences. The highly engaging, hands-on experiences of After-School Math Plus (ASM+) also build students' awareness of the importance of math skills for future educational choices and career options. The program engages students in grades 3-8 who are attending out-of-school-time programs.

Submit an interest form [here!](#)

TMC Spotlight

Coeur d'Alene Tribal School



“This is my favorite day of my week, you always have something for us to do,” stated a youth from the Coeur d’Alene Tribal School in DeSmet, Idaho.

BSB’ Think Make Create (TMC) Labs, our mobile tinkering and pre-making platform has grown to a fleet of 40+ in Nebraska and more than 30 in four other states and now one in Taiwan, bringing hands on tinkering and making activities to eager young learners. In this section we highlight updates from some of our partners

Since the TMC Lab debuted last summer at the One Sky One Earth Farmers Market; Melodie Sjostrom, University of Idaho Coeur d’Alene Reservation Extension team, had an extremely busy year teaching TMC STEAM activities with youth on the Coeur d’Alene Reservation in Idaho. Mondays and Tuesdays were spent at the Coeur d’Alene Tribe’s Marimn Health Coeur Center with the tribe’s Boys and Girls Club. Every other Friday was spent at the Coeur d’Alene Tribal School on Culture Days and with Lakeside Elementary’s Success Center. STEM/STEAM enrichment and education are not accessible in most rural parts of the United States, and are even more scarce on Native American reservations. There is a growing need for Native American youth to pursue careers in STEM/STEAM fields so they can acquire the education and skills to reinvest that knowledge into their own communities.

The TMC Lab has provided enrichment and education with the goal to have youth see themselves as scientists and stay curious about their natural and fast paced world. The TMC Lab has brought awareness and piqued the curiosity of youth located on the reservation to participate. Whether it was the famous Egg Drop, Balloon Powered Cars, Submarines, or Copper Tape Flashlights the Coeur d’Alene Reservation has had a captive audience. We aren’t only teaching STEAM to youth; we are strengthening partnerships with the Coeur d’Alene Tribe, school districts, and afterschool programs to support and enrich the lives of our youth.

Recently, the team has reached out to the underserved home school youth population by hosting TMC Lab activities weekly at the Plummer Library. The TMC Lab sponsors: Idaho 4-H, the University of Idaho, and Idaho Out of School Network, have helped the Coeur d’Alene Reservation Extension office bridge the gap by making STEM accessible to all.

Lim lemtsh (thank you).

– Shaina Nomee, Coeur d' Alene Reservation Coordinator, University of Idaho Extension



Our Contact Information

Nebraska Children & Families Foundation

215 Centennial Mall South

Suite 200

Lincoln, NE 68508

402-476-9401

<http://www.NebraskaChildren.org>

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