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**Subject:** Beyond School Bells Newsletter-June 2022

**Date:** Wednesday, June 8, 2022 at 8:01:03 AM Central Daylight Time

**From:** Beyond School Bells



June 2022

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## News & Policy

### 2022 – the Best Summer Ever for Nebraska Youth



Now that we are in June (and what a beautiful start we have had to the summer in the Eastern part of the state) we are excited to see summer learning programs launch in communities across Nebraska. Summer is an ideal time for young people to build friendships, develop skills, and to take part in fun, engaging activities that expand opportunities for learning and growth. Given the challenges they have faced over the past two and half years, we believe all Nebraska youth deserve multiple opportunities to make the summer of 2022 their Best Summer Ever!

We are aware of many activities taking place across the state, but know that there are many

others we are not aware of that are enriching the lives of Nebraska's youth. We are very interested to hear about your community's summer learning story. Please contact us and let us know about fun, engaging learning experiences that are taking place in your community.

Contact Lauren Mott at [lmott@nebraskachildren.org](mailto:lmott@nebraskachildren.org) to share your work!

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## GetConnected – Kearney Edition, September 16, 2022



The graphic features a green banner at the top with 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 green and blue. Underneath the logo is the text "2022 Nebraska Afterschool Conference" and "SEPTEMBER 16, 2022" in red. Below the date is the location "Holiday Inn Convention Center | Kearney, NE". The central part of the graphic is a collage of colorful icons representing education, community, and learning, including a house with people, a hand holding an apple, a group of people, a calendar, a graduation cap, and a recycling symbol. A Twitter bird icon and the hashtag "#GetConnected2022" are also present. At the bottom, a red banner contains the URL "https://www.education.ne.gov/21stcclc/nebraska-afterschool-conference/" in white text.

While excited about summer learning, we are also looking to the fall and the opportunity we will have to meet with afterschool and summer learning advocates from across the state at our annual GetConnected conference. Mark your calendars to attend the September 16 2022, GetConnected Conference this fall in Kearney, Nebraska at the Convention Center! Make sure that you [bookmark the 2022 conference website](#) to keep up to date on conference details. **The registration link for the conference will be on this page and open in early July!**

- [Conference Agenda](#)
- [Registration Information](#)
- [Lodging](#)

Interested in hosting a Walk-N-Talk Table or presenting a session at the conference? [Apply here!](#) The Request for Proposals will be open until Monday, June 13, 2022. Presenters will be notified on July 12, 2022 regarding hosting a table or presenting at the conference.

Along with a Youth Marketplace, 24 Walk N Talk Tables, there will be approximately 24 live presentations as well as streamed sessions. You won't want to miss out!!

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## Calling All Nebraska Youth-Serving Professionals and Volunteers: Take the Power of Us Workforce Survey Today!

Millions of professionals and volunteers across Nebraska work with young people every day in the many settings where youth play, learn, and grow outside of the school day. On athletic fields, in afterschool programs, in libraries, in faith-based institutions, youth-serving professionals and volunteers are making a difference every day. Through the Power of Us Workforce Survey, Nebraska's youth-serving professionals and volunteers can contribute to a national effort to explore, define, and elevate youth fields workforce and their essential work with youth. If we know more about what drives you in this vital work, we can do more to support the youth fields workforce to thrive.



Take the Survey!



## Nebraska ELO Programs: A Closer Look

### FarmBot Technology Coming to Nebraska Afterschool Programs!



With the Best Summer Ever finally here, it is time to get outside and enjoy the weather. Outdoor classrooms are coming together, seeds are being planted, and robots are being plugged in. You read that right – for a few afterschool programs in Nebraska, robots called [FarmBots](#) will be installed on raised bed gardens and programmed by students to help to seed, water, weed, and monitor their garden while simultaneously giving them insight into computer programming, mechanics, and robotics. These FarmBots are part of the Grow Nebraska project, made possible by the [National Geographic Society](#), aiming to recenter food systems to local contexts for all students.

This project aims to show students their own agency in growing their food and finding career connections that will build on experiences and the knowledge gained from learning outdoors and in the garden. Agriculture and technology are two career fields that are only going to grow and further intertwine. These fields are too often disconnected for students leaving their full potential for innovation and creativity unmet. FarmBot additions to the Grow Nebraska project and The Best Summer Ever aim to bridge some of those gaps and engage students who otherwise may have been left out. FarmBots and activities around them give students the tools to utilize technology to solve challenges in spaces they might not have considered before and more importantly, give them the vision to create their own tools and solutions to new spaces and challenges they will come across in their future.

## Resources & Curriculum

### Click2Engineering's Summer Community of Practice



Join other out-of-school professionals and learn strategies for teaching youth about engineering. The community of practice experience includes engineering activities, developing engineering experiences for youth and learning to facilitate the [10 Practices for an Engineering Mindset](#). The four sessions are:

1. Using a systematic problem-solving process
2. Envisioning multiple solutions
3. Explore materials
4. Applying an Engineering Mindset

**Who:** Staff, volunteers and leaders in out-of-school time programs

**When:** 11:00 am – 12:15 PST / 2:00 – 3:15 pm EST, on July 14; 21; 28 and August 4

**What:** Meet via Zoom to learn together and have fun with engineering

Register Now!

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**June 23, 2022 is International Women in Engineering Day!**

*Use Million Girls Moonshot Resources to Celebrate*



In June the Million Girls Moonshot (MGM) celebrates the amazing work that women engineers around the world are doing to support lives and livelihoods every day. June's resources profile the best, brightest, and bravest women in engineering, the inventors and innovators who dare to be part of the solution and are helping to build towards a brighter future.

### IF/THEN Collection



Use the IF/THEN Collection to celebrate women engineers. Ciara Sivels is a nuclear engineer at the Johns Hopkins University Applied Physics Laboratory. View Dr. Sivels' [collection page](#) and [profile video](#) for inspiration! Ritu Raman is an engineer, writer, and educator who builds machines out of living cells!

View Dr. Raman's [collection page](#) and [profile video](#). Share these resources with your students and help inspire the next generation of diverse engineers ready to tackle the frontiers of human knowledge and capability.

### June MGM Professional Development Resources



Ready to train volunteers and role models in your Network, school, or afterschool program? [COMPLETE THIS REGISTRATION FORM](#) to gain access to the Role Models Matter training developed by Techbridge Girls. Interested in learning more about family engagement through STEAM?

Watch the Webinar Recording: [NGCP Archived Webinar: Families & STEAM: Strengthening Relationships & Building Partnerships](#) where you'll hear about strategies, examples, and current research to deepen engagement with youth and families to intentionally support equity in and access to STEAM opportunities.

For those who like to develop professionally through quick, innovative articles, check out the following options:

- [Incorporating the Stories of Women, People of Color, and LGBTQ+ Scientists Into the Physics Classroom](#)

- [Role Models, Mentors, and Sponsors](#)
- [Epic Fail! Working to Reframe the Concept of Failing](#)
- [We Rep STEM - STEM Profile - Joy James.](#)

### Activities to Use in Your Programs

Finally, here are some fun and engaging activities include in the MGM June resource package free for Nebraska programs:

- [Engineering a Fix for the Great Pacific Garbage Patch](#)
- [Engineering Ocean Currents](#)
- [Design Squad: Invent it, Build It: Making the world a better place](#)
- [After-School Science PLUS.](#)



#### **Our Contact Information**

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