

Subject: Beyond School Bells Newsletter-December 2022
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December 2022

News & Policy

2022 – we hardly knew ya!

All of us at BSB can't believe that we are already at the end of 2022. And what a year it has been for Expanded Learning Opportunity programs in Nebraska!

After a couple of trying years of disrupted learning, programs across the state were on the upswing in 2022, providing youth with fun, hands-on learning opportunities and time to re-connect with their peers – while giving parents the peace of mind they need to get to work powering Nebraska's economy. Through the generosity of our supporters, we were able to support more communities than ever through a combination of community grants, contracts, pilot projects and *Best Summer Ever!* awards.

We are thrilled to be able to build on this success in 2023. Working in partnership with Nebraska Departments of Education and Health and Human Services, we will continue to facilitate and coordinate distribution of Federal COVID-19 relief funds to afterschool and summer programs serving Nebraska communities that were hard hit by the pandemic. We are also going to be able to braid in record amounts of new private sector funding to this work – promising to make 2023 a banner year for Expanded Learning Opportunity programs across Nebraska.

Congratulations to everyone contributing to this success in 2022 and we look forward to working with you and keeping you abreast of all of the exciting developments that will take place in Nebraska's ELO programs as we move into 2023 – including the exciting opportunities below!

Spring Registration for STEMentors Now Open



Afterschool programs can now [register](#) to have their very own UNL [STEMentor](#) in the Spring semester of 2023. Programs can sign up for 4-week courses in Digital Storytelling (grades K-3) or Artificial Intelligence & Machine Learning (grades 4-8).

[STEMentors](#) is an eLearning program providing afterschool sites with high-quality educational experiences focused on science, technology, engineering, and math (STEM). These STEM-related experiences are led via video conferencing by off-site eMentors, who are students at the University of Nebraska. A frontline instructor at the afterschool site helps lead the activities.

This semester, UNL has added a limited number of classroom kits of tablets for afterschool programs that don't have access to a computer lab. You can borrow up to one tablet for every 2 youth who will be in your STEMentor program – programs will also need to provide a computer and internet access for the Zoom connection.

Registration is open through January 10, but we recommend programs [register](#) early if they want to reserve a classroom kit.

Nebraska ELO Highlights

Over 600 in Attendance for Crete's December Family Engagement Event!

Cardinal Community Learning Centers (CCLC) knocked it out of the park on December 1 with a STEM-based family engagement event attended by 640 (+) students and family members. The event was a culmination of CCLC participation as one of only eight OST programs nationally selected for the "Family Engagement in STEM Study" conducted by the Institute for the Study of Resilience in Youth at McLean Hospital and Harvard Medical School. CCLC also took advantage of one of Beyond School Bells' (BSB) [family engagement grants](#), which provided additional support and are widely available for NE's school-based ELO programs.

STEM Stations		Special Presentations	
Apple Volcano	Polished Stones	Ausubius	Spring Creek Prairie Audubon Center
Coding	Nintendo Switch	Crete Volunteer Fire & Rescue Squad	
Build a Boat	Spice Drinking	Hands-on Demonstrations	
Graffiti	Cricut	Mila Wolfe, educator	
Heart Rate Math	Cookie Design	Tractor Technology Tour	Free Family Farms
Language Survey	Bits in a Bottle	Indoor Campfire	Reading & Snores
		Financial Intelligence	
		Officer Jordan and the K-5 Unit	

Thursday, December 1
4:30 - 6:30 p.m.
Crete Intermediate School

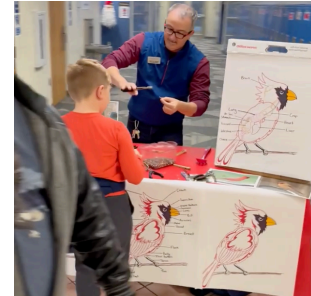
WIN PRIZES

Homemade Samosas by Women in Action. One that sets up, and gets to eat!



BSB travelled to Crete to attend and was amazed at how much CCLC were able to engage local partnerships to contribute STEM activities and learning, prizes, and fun experiences for the event. Families got involved and enjoyed themselves while also learning about all sorts of STEM topics from motorcycle mechanics to the limits of tin foil boat buoyancy, operations of the international space station, bird biology, geology, apple volcanoes, and more! And we'd be remiss not to mention the s'more making table surrounded by bright eyed kids roasting marshmallows in the hallway on the way outside to the impressive signature green and yellow John Deere tractor and big red firetruck families could explore in the parking lot.

Nearly 58% of Crete Public Schools K-12 students are reported as non-English dominant. CCLC aimed to lower the language barriers with this event to foster greater community cohesion. To this end, they secured Spanish and Karen interpreters for families as those are the most spoken non-English languages in Crete Public Schools. The atmosphere was inclusive with multi-lingual activity instructions at tables and dinner offered attendees high quality home-cooked Mexican and Karen dishes made by community members.



STEM as a family engagement tool can break through barriers between programs and families with fun, hands-on activities like the ones set up throughout the CCLC event. This winning combination also creates connections between students and tomorrow's STEM careers by empowering caregivers to support kids in ways they may not otherwise have felt equipped to do.

Thanks to CCLC for thinking big and showing what can happen in afterschool when quality partnerships, strategic support, and dedicated staff come together to engage families in new and creative ways. Follow CCLC on FB [@CardinalCenters](#) for event photos, videos, and upcoming data posts. Find more about CCLC [here](#).

Resources & Curriculum

National Geographic's Society Slingshot Challenge

Submissions due Feb 28th

How are you aiming for a better tomorrow?
Share a video of your idea for a chance to win \$10,000.

Calling all young explorers, story tellers, and creative problem solvers! [The National Geographic Society Slingshot Challenge](#) is underway tasking students to think through environmental solutions to local or global environmental issues. National Geographic Society will award **\$10,000 to FIVE** winning students for their 60-second video submissions that explain student solutions to an environmental issue. Submissions due Feb 28th, 2023. Students must be 13+ years old to submit a video. BSB will also support spring and summer Environmental Solutions clubs for all K-12 students who come up with a solution. Reach out to dstags@nebraskachildren for more details.

Million Girls Moonshot and Code.org team up for Hour of Code!



It's Computer Science Week December 6-12th! The [Million Girls Moonshot](#) is excited to [partner](#) with [Code.org](#), to expand the Hour of Code into afterschool. During Computer Science Week, tens of thousands of Hour of Code events will happen around the world. Afterschool programs in your state can join this effort by registering as an official event and adding their location to the global map. Access the Hour of Code resources and register [here!](#)

NASA Engineering Playlist Activities



Looking for a sequence of activities you can implement in your afterschool program today?

Say goodbye to googling or searching on Pinterest. Use the following activities in sequence to support youth in building an engineering mindset with NASA activities.

- **Lesson 1:** [How Can the Little Moon Hide the Giant Sun?](#) (Engineering Design Process Activity)
- **Lesson 2:** [Design a Crew Exploration Vehicle](#) (Engineering Design Process Activity)
- **Lesson 3:** [Hubble Telescope and Careers](#) (Career Connection)
- **Lesson 4:** [Women @ NASA](#) (Role Models and Mentor Connection)
- **Lesson 5:** [Women @ NASA](#) (Role Models and Mentor Connection)



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