

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

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**From:** Beyond School Bells



**Beyond School Bells**  
nebraskachildren



November 2022

## News & Policy

**Let's Elevate Youth Voice in Nebraska!**





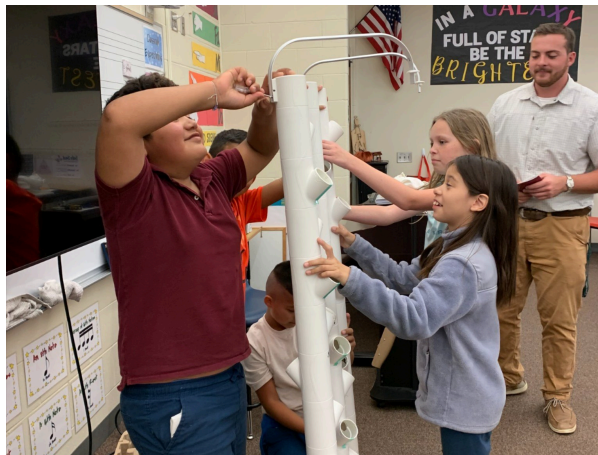
Nebraska's Afterschool and Summer programs are places where youth get excited about learning new topics, engage with their friends and near-peers to explore new interests and are inspired to dip their toes into what may become a lifetime passion. Beyond School Bells is honored to offer a variety of programs and resources that help support high quality afterschool and summer learning programs in communities across Nebraska.

But what we haven't done much of is systematically listen to the interests of young people in these programs. Until now. Going into 2023 (can anyone believe that we are in the last two months of 2022!) BSB is committed to creating systematic opportunities to listen and respond to the interests of youth in our continuing effort to support the most dynamic expanded learning opportunity programs possible.

We are looking for partners to join us in these efforts. Whether it be through focus groups, youth surveys or youth generated videos and podcasts, we are looking for partner communities and organizations interested in working with us to elevate the voices of youth in your programs to get a better handle on the direction youth across Nebraska would like to see afterschool and summer programs take in the future. Email Stephanie Vadnais at [svadnais@nebraskachildren.org](mailto:svadnais@nebraskachildren.org) if you are interested in finding out more about and joining in our youth engagement efforts.

## Nebraska ELO Highlights

### Keep Your Afterschool Program's Gardens Going All Year!



There isn't much green sprouting up outside anymore, but that doesn't mean garden clubs have to pause until the spring. Over the last year, BSB has worked with various afterschool programs and partner organizations to implement a few avenues to keeping garden clubs going through the winter. The most direct is to move your gardens indoors! Clubs can use LED grow lights, projects like terrariums, or even garden towers like Crete Intermediate students are shown doing here. Other avenues are to build clubs on food systems and connect to careers like grocers, chefs, and agriculture and permaculture professionals in their slow seasons. Just because the leaves have fallen doesn't mean your garden and food system programming has to as well! Reach out to Dakota Staggs @

[DStaggs@nebraskachildren.org](mailto:DStaggs@nebraskachildren.org) to talk through options you can implement this winter as BSB supported Garden and Food Systems Clubs.

## Resources & Curriculum

### Million Girls Moonshot (MGM) Wishing you a happy Native American Heritage Month!



Meet Ahna Skop, #NativeAmerican scientist, a geneticist, artist, science communicator, and champion for the underrepresented in science. She studies how cells divide, knowing that failures lead to cancer and neurodegeneration | [IF/THEN® Collection](#). She also shares a day on the job of a geneticist with us – watch to learn how she uses her art skills to visually communicate science. [IF/THEN® Collection](#).

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### Free, MGM-Supported Professional Development for Afterschool Staff

#### Techbridge Girls Equity Cohort

We created the STEM Equity Learning Community intensive training to equip OST program managers and site directors so that more equitable learning spaces are available for girls, especially Black, Indigenous, and Latina girls, across the U.S. The 2-hour, virtual STEM Equity Learning Community sessions are scheduled from January to May on the second Wednesday of each month at 10am Pacific | 1pm Eastern. Each participant will receive a \$1500 stipend to participate. Apply [here](#) by December 1st. Attend an informational webinar November 9th 10 am Pacific | 1pm Eastern [Register here](#).

#### After-School Math Plus Curriculum Training

In this workshop series, participants will be introduced to After-School Math Plus, an evidence-based curriculum to support students in developing a positive math identity by exploring mathematics in everyday experiences. **November 22 12:30-1:45 EST [Register Here](#)** Meeting ID: 931 5017 3110 | **December 13th 12:30-1:45 EST [Register Here](#)** Meeting ID: 931 5017 3110

## ACRES Moonshot Virtual STEM Coach

Are you an afterschool leader and looking to build capacity for STEM engagement in your afterschool program? Receive a \$500 stipend to attend training plus \$1000 for every cohort you coach. Applications due November 23rd — [Sign up today!](#) ACRES team is looking for job-secure afterschool program leaders (i.e. Site Directors, Site Coordinators, STEM Specialists, Professional Development and Training staff) who work directly with frontline staff to be trained to become an ACRES Virtual STEM Coach.

## TMC Spotlight

### Taking Afterschool Programs into the Future! City Build 2040 in Grand Island



On October 17th and 18th, 65 elementary and secondary students in Grand Island Public Schools (GPIS) gathered to participate in Beyond School Bell's City Build 2040 project. The City Build 2040 is a hands-on experience for K-8 students to use mostly recycled materials to build a representation of their town as they want to see it in the year 2040.



In Grand Island's City Build 2040, students worked with near peers and college student facilitators to design a future city with a focus on housing, businesses, parks and recreation, transportation, water management systems, and renewable energy. Project coordinators in Grand Island worked with GPIS 20 high school student mentors and 25 UNL Honors students to help facilitate and guide the experience. Supplies included a tremendous amount of cardboard collected by GIPS staff and supplies from the Think Make Create Lab such as multi-colored duct tape, pipe cleansers, Crayola crayons, markers, and construction paper were key building materials.

The two-day session took place from 4-6 pm each day. On the second day, parents, grandparents and caretakers were invited to come see what their students had created. Students provided commentary on why components of their city were so unique and why they want these components in their city.

City Build 2040 is a great way to get youth hands-on experience in engineering and team building, as well as a great way to engage families and communities.



We are looking for more afterschool programs to participate in this fun, hands on project. If you are interested in hosting a City Build 2040 in your program, you can find the free activity plan for this build on our website [here!](#)

To see this curriculum in action, check out [Norfolk's City Build 2040 video!](#)

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## TMC Goes International

Featuring TMC Taiwan



We are excited to see our TMC Taiwan taking off and are looking forward innovative projects, like CityBuild 2040, linking NE youth with their peers around the world!



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### Our Contact Information

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