



**community
learning centers**

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Out-of-School Time System Building in Nebraska:

Project Liftoff

The Nebraska Community Learning Center Network, a statewide public-private initiative housed at the Nebraska Children and Families Foundation, supports policies that encourage school-community partnerships providing high-quality out-of-school time (OST) programs and partnerships that youth, their families and their communities need to be successful.

In the summer 2011, the Network was awarded a grant, termed *Project Liftoff*, from the Noyce Foundation to support the expansion of high-quality Science, Technology, Engineering and Math (STEM) content into Nebraska's OST programs. This two-year systems-building grant expands upon both the Network's previous partnership building efforts and statewide discussions that the Nebraska Department of Education convened in 2010-11 through a NASA Summer of Innovation initiative. Project Liftoff will allow the Network to forge partnerships necessary to develop a system that facilitates collaboration between key OST STEM stakeholders across Nebraska.

In implementing Project Liftoff Nebraska, several workgroups have been formed to oversee specific goals and action steps. These workgroups include:

- **Leadership/Partnership** – develop partnerships to support OST STEM programs and system-building efforts
- **Data and Evaluation** – develop both a baseline of existing programs in Nebraska and a common statewide consensus around qualities and measures of high-quality STEM programs
- **Marketing and Communication** – develop compelling messages about the importance of OST STEM activities that can be co-branded by partners
- **Professional Development** – facilitate professional development opportunities that support more, high-quality OST STEM offerings

We invite you to join one of these workgroups and participate in this exciting new opportunity to support Nebraska's most valuable resource – our youth.

If you would like more information about Project Liftoff, please contact us. We also invite you to join our online STEM community at ne.outofschoolstem.org.