

Tuesday, April 16, 2024 at 09:52:17 Central Daylight Time

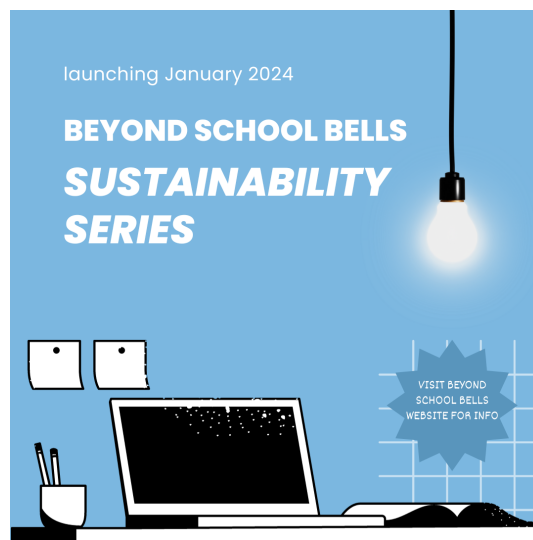
Subject: Beyond School Bells Newsletter-February 2024
Date: Tuesday, February 6, 2024 at 7:54:10 AM Central Standard Time
From: Beyond School Bells
To: Lauren Clark



February 2024

Upcoming Events

New this week!
BSB February Lunch and Learn – ELO Program Sustainability



Zoom:
Thursday, February 8th 12-1pm CST
<https://us06web.zoom.us/j/82202479255>

Meeting ID: 822 0247 9255

This Wednesday, Beyond School Bells will launch our new **Sustainability Series Lunch and Learn program** to help support afterschool programs and community advocates build long-term sustainability for their important programs and the vital work they are doing in communities across Nebraska. For our first Lunch and Learn session we will be walking through two easy-to-use tools created by BSB to help in your partnership development efforts. If you have not yet viewed our recently developed [Sustainability Series videos](#), please take a few minutes to do so. It will be well worth your time! The series of recorded sessions was developed to help support afterschool and summer programs in their efforts to build long-term sustainability for their programs. The content is divided into brief, individual videos created specifically for afterschool program directors/leadership teams. We will continue the series with an additional meeting on Wednesday, February 22nd at 12-1pm, preparing participants for two sustainability workshops at the ELO Innovation Invitational.

[BSB Sustainability Series Page](#)

ELO Innovation Invitational – Going Beyond!

March 5-6, 2024



As the story above suggests, it is getting REALLY close. Nebraska's ELO Innovation Invitational will be held in Lincoln at UNL's Innovation Campus on March 5-6th. This statewide event will once bring together ELO Stakeholders across the state to share best practices, hopes and challenges as we both plan for this summer's programming and envision the future for ELO programs in Nebraska.

This free, two-day event will be moderated by Dr. Tony Smith, a national expert in out of school time and full-service community schools and will include presentations by NDE Commissioner Dr. Brian Mahler, Nebraska Youth and practitioners working every day to build high-quality, cost-efficient and locally sustainable afterschool and summer programming in communities across the state. More information about this can't miss Networking and skills development opportunity, go to the button below.



MILLION GIRLS MOONSHOT

Ready, STEM, Go! Free Virtual Conference
March 27-28



	March 27 & 28, 2024	Join this virtual conference focusing on STEM in out-of-school time! BSB and 5 other state networks have joined to bring you motivating speakers, exciting activities, and inspiring ideas!
SAVE THE DATE	Free for all!	Register at the link below!

Register Today!

Resources and Opportunities

**BSB Leverage Grant:
Application due February 26th**

Beyond School Bells is also excited about our new grant program to support afterschool and summer programming across the state, the BSB Leverage Grants .

BSB Leverage Grants are intended to support Greater Nebraska Afterschool and Summer programs during the 2024/25 school year and the summer of 2025. The primary goal of this grant is to help grow and sustain new rural school-based ELO programs. Priority will be given to programs established in the last five years as well as programs serving high need communities, including schools with high concentrations of students residing in low-income households or facing other educational challenges.

The BSB Leverage grant program will be competitive and will provide a select group of ELO programs with one-year grants that begin at \$7,500, with a maximum award of up to \$50,000. While one-year grants, there is the possibility for additional years of funding in future years if funding is available. This grant requires local 1:1 leverage of BSB funds, including district contributions, community partners contributions, and other forms of leverage. Grant funds can support staffing, programming costs, parent/family engagement activities, supplies and sustainability work (outreach, marketing), but should be focused on providing hands on, engaged learning to youth participating in the program. The BSB Leverage grant will give grantees the ability to design the composition of their grant based on their local needs and capacity.

Visit our website for more information <https://beyondschoolbells.org/projects/>

Calling All Retired Educators!



WE WANT YOU!

As reported last month, Beyond School Bells, is thrilled to announce a new partnership with Nebraska State Education Association – Retired teachers division, to recruit former educators to join in the growing movement to support afterschool and summer programs across the state.

Retired teachers understand the pivotal role afterschool and summer programs play in providing youth with additional learning opportunities and crucial support beyond the regular school day and year. From creating safe, nurturing spaces at the end of the school day to facilitating hands-on projects, cooking classes, robotics clubs, memorable field trips, and much, much more, afterschool and summer programs contribute significantly to healthy youth development and community vitality and are indispensable for Nebraska's working parents and caregivers.

We need you to help us grow high quality, locally sustainable programs across the state. If you are or know a retired teacher, we suggest you reach out to an elementary or middle school in your community to inquire about their afterschool program. Once connected, ask to meet with the site director and explore their needs or propose a club idea that sparks your passion and ensures engagement with the youth in the program. Share your availability with the program director and, if you are interested in mentoring a high school staff member, let them know. Trust us - programs will be excited to see a fellow educator interested in being a part of their team!

While Beyond School Bells doesn't operate afterschool or summer programs in communities across the state (these are all locally run programs) we do have a network of contacts we can connect you with if you need a place to start. Contact Katie Christiansen at kchristiansen@nebraskachildren.org if you would like to find out more!

Million Girls Moonshot (MGM) February Resources

The Million Girls Moonshot celebrates Black History Month and Engineering Week (2/18-2/24) in February. See below for free opportunities and activities for afterschool staff!

- **[Role Models Matter and Mentoring Works!](#)**: This webpage serves as a resource for educators seeking STEM role models and mentors for their students.
- **[Women of Color in STEM: The Past, Present, and Future](#)**: Learn about women who were ground breakers in STEM, organizations that support women in STEM and are approachable by educators, conferences, and a description of the educational path to STEM.
- **[50 Black Women in STEM You Should Know About](#)**: Learn about 50 amazing women who are role models for success in STEM. Photos, biographies, and links to additional information can be found here.
- **[STEM Family Engagement Planning Tool](#)**: A planning tool to support programs in uplifting and empowering all youth and families in STEM.

Share Your Experiences

Do You Employ High School Students as Staff in Your Program? Share Your Experience!

We are compiling feedback from after school programs aka "The Experts" who are already employing high school students. The results will be compiled and shared at the Innovation invitational in March. We want to highlight the good work happening and the challenges to help

others who are thinking of building or growing their high school workforce. If you would like to schedule a zoom call instead of filling out this survey, please email apearson@nebraskachildren.org.

Complete the Survey!



Our Contact Information

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