

CONFERENCE PROGRAM

NEBRASKA'S
EXPANDED LEARNING
OPPORTUNITIES

INNOVATION INVITATIONAL

Innovation for
Sustainability



MARCH 5-6, 2024

UNL Innovation Campus /
Innovation Commons
LINCOLN, NEBRASKA



Beyond School Bells
nebraskachildren

AGENDA | NEBRASKA'S ELO INNOVATION INVITATIONAL

DAY 1: TUESDAY, MARCH 5, 2024

8:30-9:00 AM	Check-in and Breakfast , Banquet Hall	
9:00-10:00 AM Banquet Hall	OPENING PLENARY: Going Beyond Afterschool and summer programs are at a crossroads. With unprecedented COVID-era Federal support winding down, states, school districts and local communities will be responsible for building and sustaining quality afterschool and summer learning experiences for the youth in our communities. The good news is that we can do this – we know because many of you have been doing it for years. Dr. Tony Smith has been working in a variety of education related spaces – formal K-12, early childhood, afterschool and summer, and Full Service Community Schools for decades. During this opening keynote he will share his unique insights into how we can help build the systems we need to provide the kinds of programs Nebraska youth need to thrive. Dr. Smith will also be presenting workshops during the conference and will be available throughout the conference to continue this important conversation. <i>Dr. Tony Smith, Whyspeople</i>	
10:00-10:15 AM	Break	
10:15-11:15 AM SESSION 1: HANDS-ON WORKSHOPS		
Literacy and Movement Room A1-2 Let's open the pages of a good book and jump inside! In this session, we'll talk about how to springboard great stories to create actual adventures and learn how get readers actively engaged in their learning! When we combine reading and movement we can captivate even our most resistant readers. <i>Ashley Larson, Linked2Literacy and Book Club Unplugged</i>	Full Service Community Schools Discussion Room: Making it Happen Room A3 This session is designed for school administrators to engage in a discussion about implementing the Full Service Community School (FSCS) model. Learn about lessons learned from the Nebraska FSCS two-year pilot program. <i>Dr. Tony Smith, Whyspeople</i> <i>Joe DiCostanzo, Nebraska Children and Families Foundation</i>	
Data-Driven Marketing: Championing Economic Impact Room B1-2 Unlock exclusive templates for assessing your program's impact. Craft a compelling narrative with concrete numbers to strengthen stakeholder connections and empower staff. These tools will help showcase your program's profound contributions, fostering a deeper understanding of its significance. <i>Joel Bramhall, Crete Cardinal Community Learning Center</i>	Building Your Evaluation: Understanding the Basics Room B3 In this session, participants will gain an understanding about the basic components of program evaluation. They will leave with understanding on how to develop evaluation outcomes, utilize existing data sources, and plan for new data collection - all through an equitable evaluation lens. <i>Dr. Jolene Johnson, UNMC Munroe-Meyer Institute and</i> <i>Dr. Teresa Wanser-Ernst, Cultural Competence Center</i>	
Unheard Voices, Unseen Strengths: Partnering with Underrecognized Families Room C Unheard Voices, Unseen Strengths empowers professionals to partner with families facing barriers for engaging. Explore challenges, discover tools for trust, collaboration, and inclusive outreach. Learn how to unlock potential, amplify voices, and build stronger communities. Join us! <i>Jodi-Renee (JR) Girón, First Five Nebraska and</i> <i>Aiesha Rahn, Nebraska Children and Families Foundation</i>	Developing A Team That R.O.C.K.S. Banquet Hall Seeking high quality staff is like mining for rare gems. It takes work, patience, and a persistent attitude. To find that rich seem of colorful stones, you will have to chip through dirt and rock. In this session, participants will explore the steps necessary to build a team that R.O.C.K.S. <i>LaRon C. Henderson, Collective for Youth</i>	

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DAY 1: TUESDAY, MARCH 5, 2024

11:15-11:30 AM

Break

11:30-12:00 PM

SESSION 2: HANDS-ON WORKSHOPS

Marshmallow Snowflake Maker Space Session | Banquet Hall



Hands-on, engaging makerspace session designed to encourage learning and inspire creativity in students of all ages!

Carrie Lienemann, Jack Buscher, and Noah Henderson, North Platte Public Schools Kids Klub

Federal Funding 101



Room A1-2

Show me the money! Multiple Federal funding streams can support your work in your community's afterschool and summer program. Learn more about the many different Federal funding sources available and how you can find and apply for them.

Dr. Josh Cramer, Nebraska Children and Families Foundation

What is a Full Service Community School?



Room A3

Learn more about this collective approach to education and what it entails. This session will outline the key components involved in a Full Service Community School (FSCS) and the key role afterschool plays in this model.

Joe DiCostanzo, Nebraska Children and Families Foundation

Nebraska Extension Marathon Kids: Influencing Health – Body and Mind | Room B1-2



Marathon Kids is a national running program designed to introduce youth to the joy of physical activity and boost overall health while using intrinsic motivation to encourage youth to be active. Nebraska Extension has partnered with Marathon Kids to bring this program to all communities in Nebraska.

Mariah Newmyer, and Beth Nacke, Nebraska Extension

Tell Your Story: Creating a Program One-Pager | Room B3



A program one-pager can be a powerful tool in your sustainability toolkit. Learn about how a newer program developed and used their one-pager to advocate for program sustainability in their community.

**Stephanie Vadnais, Beyond School Bells
Rachelle O’Kief, Valentine Community Schools**

Identifying Your Dream Team



Room C

This guided activity is designed for afterschool program directors to identify those in their organizations, school districts, and larger communities who will support and share the meaningful work their program is doing day in and day out.

Jennifer Jones and Lauren Clark, Beyond School Bells

ESSER Collaborative ELO – Spend Your Funds (Wisely!) | Room D



Time is running out for districts to spend their ESSER Collaborative ELO funds — the opportunity to invest well in your quality afterschool and summer program is now! If you are a current ESSER grantee, come hear important reminders about these funds from the Nebraska Department of Education.

Lane Carr, Nebraska Department of Education

12:00-1:15 PM

Banquet Hall

LUNCH KEYNOTE

Conversation with the Commissioner

Dr. Brian Maher is the Commissioner of the Nebraska Department of Education, a position he has held since July 2023. During this lunchtime conversation, Dr. Maher will share his perspective on the important, unique role that afterschool and summer programs play in Nebraska's education system as well as reflect on his partnership with the Kearney CLC program, which began when he was superintendent of Kearney Public Schools. Following his overview, Dr. Maher will respond to questions posed by Beyond School Bell's Youth Leadership Council exploring the future of afterschool and summer learning in Nebraska.

Dr. Brian Maher, Nebraska Commissioner of Education

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DAY 1: TUESDAY, MARCH 5, 2024

1:15-2:00 PM

SESSION 3: HANDS-ON WORKSHOPS

Nebraska Innovation Studio Maker Space Session | Banquet Hall

Nebraska Innovation Studio is UNL's Maker Space and located just across the hall from today's Conference. Open since 2015, in 2023 Innovation Studio received new robotics equipment to help students and community members learn and prototype using robotic technology. Part of this project includes bringing the wonder of robots to Nebraska schools and afterschool programs. During this hands-on demonstration, learn how your afterschool programs can take it to the next level with robotics.

David Martin, *Nebraska Innovation Studio*

Multilingual Parent Engagement

Room A1-2

How can we improve family engagement efforts with ALL families? Learn about the power of engaging non-English speaking families in your afterschool program. Hear directly from a parent and a coordinator about how relationship-based efforts have helped to support families.

Mariana Schell, *Nebraska Children and Families Foundation*
Marlén Díaz, *Parent Advisor*, **Chelsea Sidel** and **Litzy Limas**,
Crete Cardinal Community Learning Centers

TMC Labs Has Gone National!

Room A3

Learn from Idaho as they took the Nebraska TMC model and successfully implemented TMC Labs into their after-school programs with staff trainings, data collection, funding, and community support. We will end the session with a tour of our TMC Lab and participants will leave with new TMC curriculum.

Amy Post, *Idaho Out of School Network*
Alana Pearson *Beyond School Bells*

Board Games as an Educational Tool

Room B1-2

Board games can be engaging and fun, but did you know there are many educational standards that can be met with board games? Many games inherently include basic math and reading. Come learn how games can be used as a fun educational tool in your program!

Brian Welch, *The Great Plains Gaming Project*

Strategic Communication: Know Your Audience | Room B3

Let's be honest: advocating for your program to policy makers, potential funders, and others can be challenging. In this session, attendees will engage in an interactive activity that will help you think strategically about who your audience is and how to craft effective strategic messaging.

Stephanie Vadnais, *Beyond School Bells*

Reframing Behavior

Room C

As afterschool providers, when we step away from seeing all behavior as intentional to looking at behavior as driven by the brain and nervous system, we have the power to see students more clearly. Afterschool programming can be a place where ALL students thrive and find belonging. Learn how your program can start or further your steps to begin to reframe your lens to be inclusive to all students.

Jennifer Jones, *Beyond School Bells*

Sustainability Office Hours*

Room D

Bring your questions and share your community's challenges regarding sustainability for your afterschool and summer program. This is an opportunity to troubleshoot, brainstorm, and get feedback from others in this open discussion room.

Jeff Cole, *Beyond School Bells*

**This workshop is also offered day 2 session 4.*

2:00-2:15 PM

Break

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DAY 1: TUESDAY, MARCH 5, 2024

2:15-3:00 PM

SESSION 4: HANDS-ON WORKSHOPS

Cultivating Community Partnerships

Room A1-2

Cultivating community partnerships is an essential part of developing and sustaining quality programs. In this session, we will explore what partnerships can look like, important communication tactics we can use to cultivate these partnerships, and how to best steward these relationships.

Kathleen Ousey, *Linked2Literacy*

Engage Your Staff and Youth to Build Assets

Room A3

As afterschool providers, we want to see youth succeed in school, treat others with respect, maintain a healthy lifestyle, and become strong leaders. We are also optimistic they will avoid risky behaviors. But how can we help insure those outcomes? By building assets!

Erika Wibbels and **Cody Talarico**, *Nebraska Department of Education*

Mentoring Mindset: A Framework for Many Ages and Settings | Room B1-2

This framework, developed by MENTOR National, can be used in structured or informal mentoring settings. It centers the mentee and provides mentors with 4 quadrants for success: Intentional, Supportive, Developmental, Communal. Participants will gain action steps to provide effective mentoring.

Shari Collins and **Haji Salad**, *MENTOR Nebraska*

Advocating for Your Program with Policy Makers | Room B3

During this workshop, Senator Morfeld will demystify the Capitol visit experience – giving you an other-side-of-the-seat perspective as you prepare to share information about your community's wonderful afterschool and summer program with your Senator tomorrow.

Adam Morfeld, *Civic Nebraska*

Engaging Families with STEM Backpacks

Room C

What are STEM Backpacks? What's new with the backpacks in 2024? How has creating a partnership between two states helped enhance this program and what are the lessons learned? We will answer all these questions and review activities in this session!

Ann O'Connor, *Nebraska 4-H* and **Julianna Thrasher**, *Missouri 4-H Extension*

Q&A Session: WebGrants, Budgets, and Forms | Room D

For those with existing Beyond School Bells contracts, only. Please bring any questions you have about your contract, budget forms, general ledgers, WebGrants, and anything else!

Lauren Clark and **Dakota Staggs**, *Beyond School Bells*
Emily Arehart, **Jennifer Kirkpatrick**, and **Ashley McMurchie**, *Nebraska Children and Families Foundation*

3:00-5:30 PM

Afternoon Break

5:30-7:30 PM

YOUTH VOICE NIGHT AND DINNER

Banquet Hall

It sounds cliché, but it's true – Nebraska's youth represent Nebraska's future. Young people across our state have ideas, insights, and the potential to make afterschool the most exciting, engaging, and inspiring learning and community space it can be. Sometimes we just need to give them a platform to share. At this evening dinner and reception, hear from real Nebraska youth about how afterschool programs have shaped their lives – past, present, and future – and learn about their ideas for enhancing and improving programs across the state.

CONVERSATION: The Impact of Afterschool

Carrie Lienemann and Noah H., North Platte Kids Klub

PANEL: The Power of High School Students as Staff

Lauren Clark, Beyond School Bells, Bella R., Valentine, Lena K., Lincoln, and Lillian E., Oakland-Craig

PANEL: From Program to Career

Amanda G., Lincoln, Braxton Crowder, Kiewit Luminarium, Chelsea Sidel, Crete Cardinal Learning Centers, Justen Lusk, ESU 13, and Madi Klingenberg, Mickle Middle School






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DAY 2: WEDNESDAY, MARCH 6, 2024

8:30-9:00 AM	Check-in and Breakfast , Banquet Hall	
9:00-10:00 AM Banquet Hall	OPENING PLENARY: Nebraska's Bountiful Resources Stretching from Mitchell to Omaha and Valentine to Red Cloud, all across Nebraska there are abundant resources to help support high quality afterschool and summer programs. During this session we will hear from two great resources, the Nebraska Community Foundation and the Kiewit Luminarium. Following these presentations, we will have guided table conversations focused on uncovering the resources that exist in every Nebraska community. <i>Jeff Yost, Nebraska Community Foundation</i> <i>Silva Raker, Kiewit Luminarium</i>	
10:00-10:15 AM	Break	
10:15-11:15 AM SESSION 1: HANDS-ON WORKSHOPS		
Afterschool and the Whole Child  Room A1-2 What does the Whole Child approach mean? Participate in a facilitated discussion on how programs can work towards creating an afterschool environment where trust, active listening, community, and inclusion are valued. <i>Dr. Tony Smith, Whyspeople</i>	Merging Art with Environmental Education in Learning about the Great Plains  Room A3 The "Great Plains, Great Brains" afterschool curriculum utilizes an eco-art education approach, a powerful method for fostering ecological literacy through creative expression. It engages 3-8th graders in appreciating the beauty of the Great Plains and supporting lifelong learning of its conservation. <i>Alison Cloet, UNL Center for Great Plains Studies</i>	
Nebraska Community Foundation: Building Lasting Partnerships  Room B1-2 The Nebraska Community Foundation (NCF) empowers local leaders to identify community assets, invest in their resources, and bring about positive change through their network of local affiliated funds. Discover how NCF can be a strategic partner in building your community's program. <i>Jeff Yost, Nebraska Community Foundation</i>	Building Strong Teen Leaders  Room B3 How can we support the growth and development of young staff and teen volunteers? What do teens and young adults need to be successful teachers and leaders in our programs? This session includes resources, strategies, and ideas from Click2ComputerScience. <i>Sandra Frerichs and Ann O'Connor, Nebraska 4-H</i>	
It's the Small Things  Room C There are so many small things we do in our work that make a big impact! We'll talk about those small things, share ideas, and learn different ways to build connections at the school, program, and community levels. <i>Dayna Krannawitter, Arnold Elementary Community Learning Center</i>	How the Kiewit Luminarium Can Support Programs Across the State  Banquet Hall Come to this open dialogue session to share ideas and dreams about how the Luminarium can be a resource supporting all of Nebraska's afterschool and summer programs – regardless of their proximity to Omaha. <i>Silva Raker, Kiewit Luminarium</i>	

AGENDA | NEBRASKA'S ELO INNOVATION INVITATIONAL

DAY 2: WEDNESDAY, MARCH 6, 2024

11:15-11:30 AM	Break
11:30-12:00 PM SESSION 2: HANDS-ON WORKSHOPS	
<p>Think Make Create (TMC) Labs Maker Space Session Banquet Hall </p> <p>Come to this hands on workshop to see how the TMC can serve as a pop up making and tinkering space (weather permitting, this may be an outside activity utilizing the TMC trailer).</p> <p><i>Alana Pearson, Beyond School Bells</i></p>	
<p>Building Relationships through Outdoor Education Room A1-2 </p> <p>We build our lives from stories. How we see ourselves, others, and our place in the world shapes those stories. Go Beyond seeks to help students create their own stories through immersive experiences in nature. Break away from traditional approaches to bring Go Beyond's work to Afterschool!</p> <p><i>Ian Kimmer and Mitch Findley, Go Beyond</i></p>	<p>Youth Leadership Council: Elevating High School Staff Voices Statewide Room A3 </p> <p>Learn about Beyond School Bells' (BSB) Youth Leadership Council (YLC), a semester-long experience where high school staff propose projects to fill an unmet need within their afterschool community. Attend to hear about past cohorts and learn how your high school staff could engage with YLC!</p> <p><i>Lauren Clark, Beyond School Bells</i></p>
<p>Youth Videography Summer Program Room B1-2 </p> <p>The Youth Videography Summer Program in Aurora, Nebraska was a hit! Join us as we watch the students' short videos and learn more about how this Youth Videography summer program was implemented.</p> <p><i>Mitchell Lyon and Paul Johnson, Hamilton County Youth Center</i></p>	<p>Afterschool Talent Pipeline Room B3 </p> <p>This workshop will engage participants in thinking about the enormous potential of the afterschool space to provide workforce development programming. We will share ideas for how to leverage key community partnerships and create learning pathways that span grade levels and organizations.</p> <p><i>Michelle Arehart, Kearney Community Learning Center and Dr. Alison O'Toole, Beyond School Bells</i></p>
<p>Family Engagement: Backbone to a Successful Program Room C </p> <p>Family Engagement is the best way to build your connection with your community. Let's talk about all the fun ideas and ways we can include everyone in our programs through intentional Family Engagement strategies.</p> <p><i>Chelsea Sidel, Crete Cardinal Learning Centers</i></p>	<p>WILDLIFE EXPLORERS! Room D </p> <p>Building on years of experience and exploration, Spring Creek Prairie Audubon Center's resident "Birdnerd" and Sr. Education Manager, Jason St. Sauver, shares updates on WILDLIFE EXPLORERS curriculum, activities, and kits being developed as a Beyond School Bells Center of Excellence.</p> <p><i>Jason "the Birdnerd" St. Sauver, Spring Creek Prairie Audubon Center</i></p>
12:00-1:15 PM Banquet Hall	<p>LUNCH KEYNOTE AND CLOSING</p> <p>Looking Beyond</p> <p>Dr. Tony Smith will wrap up our time together with a working lunch session summarizing the main themes of the conference and focusing on action steps we, the leaders in Nebraska's ELO movement, can take to help realize our shared vision of creating a statewide system of afterschool and summer programs that provide all Nebraska youth, families and communities with the expanded learning opportunities they need to thrive.</p> <p><i>Dr. Tony Smith, Whyspeople</i></p>

DAY 2: WEDNESDAY, MARCH 6, 2024

1:15-2:00 PM

SESSION 3: HANDS-ON WORKSHOPS

Trauma-Informed Afterschool

Room A1-2

Learn more about the basics of trauma-informed care and the essential elements of creating afterschool settings that promote and foster safe, welcoming environments. Tools for next steps and furthering this work in your program will be provided.

Jennifer Jones, Katie Christiansen, and Stephanie Vadnais,
Beyond School Bells

Community Response and the Connected Youth Initiative

Room A3

We will provide an overview of the Community Response infrastructure, including Community Collaboratives, partner networks, and a special focus on older youth work happening within the Connected Youth Initiative.

Keenan Page and Leonor Fuhrer, *Nebraska Children and Families Foundation,*
Brady Rhodes, *Community Impact Network of Adams, Clay, Webster, and Nuckolls*

Leveraging Your Evaluation for Change and Sustainability | Room B1-2

In this session, we will explore strategies on how to use evaluation for purposes of change and sustainability. Participants will brainstorm how best to reach community members and others through a number of evaluation methods.

Dr. Jolene Johnson, *UNMC Munroe-Meyer Institute,* **Fallon Watts** and **Rebecca Monnier,** *Nebraska Children and Families Foundation*

Connecting with Nebraska 4-H and Nebraska Extension | Room B3

Nebraska 4-H and Nebraska Extension help build community partnerships, support afterschool and summer programming, and provide staff development. You'll meet state experts and leave with easy ways to make connections and new resources to grow your program.

Sandra Frerichs, Sonya Gulp, and Molly Brandt
Nebraska 4-H

Think, Make, Create (TMC) Labs Roundtable | Room C

This session will bring together current and future Think, Make, Create (TMC) users to share stories and brainstorm new ideas for training, curriculum, community outreach, and more.

Alana Pearson, *Beyond School Bells*







Upcoming BSB Grant Opportunities | Banquet Hall

This session will offer an overview, Q&A, and brief brainstorming time to plan for BSBs upcoming grant opportunities, including the "Summer of Discovery", "STEM Family Engagement", and "Engineering Pathways".

Dakota Staggs and Dr. Alison O'Toole, *Beyond School Bells*

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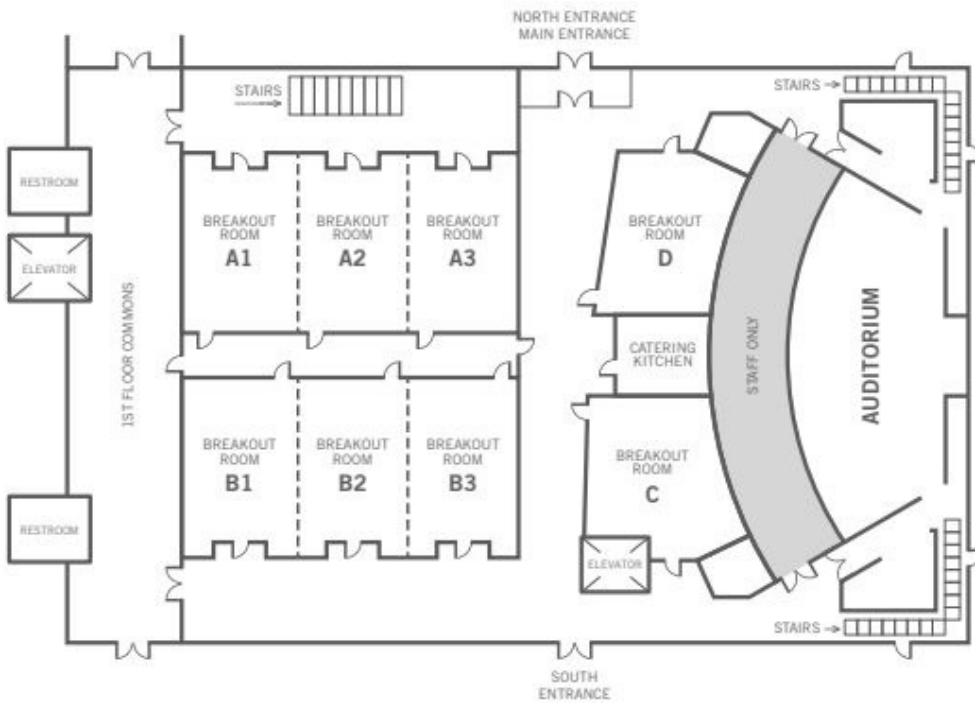
DAY 2: WEDNESDAY, MARCH 6, 2024

2:00-2:15 PM	Break
2:15-3:00 PM SESSION 4: HANDS-ON WORKSHOPS	
<p>Reaching Teens Toolkit </p> <p>Room A1-2</p> <p>Join us for a discussion and tutorial on utilizing the Reaching Teens Toolkit: a resource with tips and tools for strength-based, trauma-sensitive, resilience-building communication strategies that are rooted in positive youth development.</p> <p>Carissa Kollath and Crystal Aldmeyer, <i>Nebraska Children and Families Foundation</i></p>	<p>You've Collected Youth Voice, Now What? </p> <p>Room A3</p> <p>Learn and share strategies for empowering K-8 youth to help make decisions in their afterschool programs, including brainstorming activities, voting on clubs, and even starting an Elementary Student Advisory Team!</p> <p>Alana Pearson and Lauren Clark, <i>Beyond School Bells</i></p>
<p>Using Hydroponics to Engage Students </p> <p>Afterschool Room B1-2</p> <p>This session will explore the value of hydroponics for STEM, student leadership, and environmental stewardship in afterschool programs. Participants will interact with hydroponic tools, learn accessible methods for their programs, and explore examples of engaging students throughout the process.</p> <p>Alexus Hansen, <i>Beyond School Bells</i></p>	<p>School Age Licensing Listening Session </p> <p>Room B3</p> <p>Licensing your program through DHHS can open up new opportunities for your program to grow and develop. This is a time to share your thoughts and ideas for how School Age Child Care licensing could be more accessible for afterschool programs across the state.</p> <p>Stephanie Vadnais, <i>Beyond School Bells</i></p>
<p>Sustainability Office Hours* </p> <p>Room C</p> <p>Bring your questions and share your community's challenges regarding sustainability for your afterschool and summer program. This is an opportunity to troubleshoot, brainstorm, and get feedback from others in this open discussion room.</p> <p><i>*This workshop is also offered day 1 session 3.</i></p> <p>Jeff Cole, <i>Beyond School Bells</i></p>	<p>Nebraska Innovation Studio Tours </p> <p>Banquet Hall</p> <p>Meet in the Banquet Hall for a guided tour of Nebraska Innovation Studio. Located just across from our conference space, this collaborative maker space has tools for engineering, woodworking, pottery, 3D printing, and more!</p> <p>David Martin, <i>Nebraska Innovation Studio</i></p>

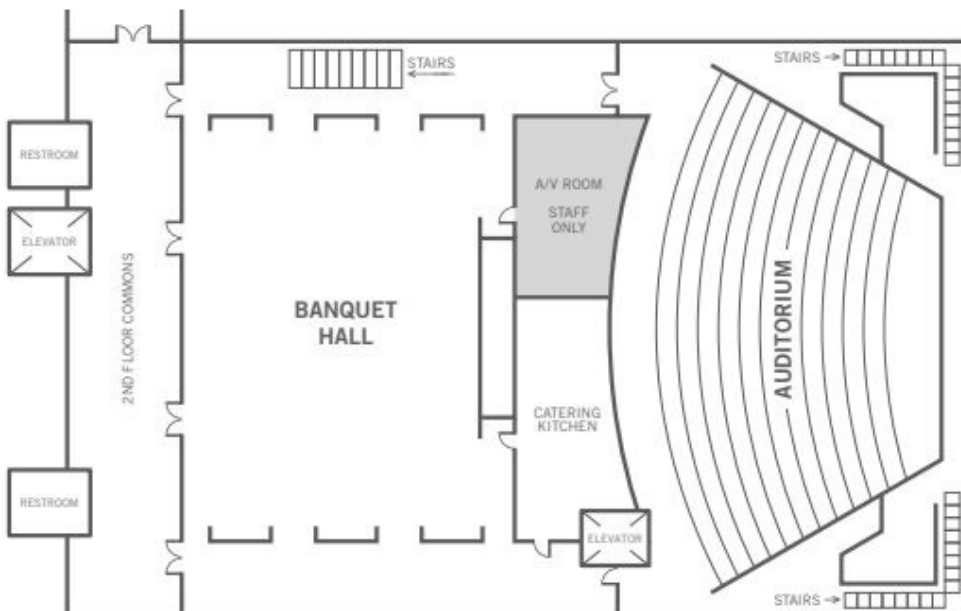
WIFI INFORMATION

Network: NU-Guest
Username: March5
Password: Innovation2024!

CONFERENCE CENTER MAP



1ST FLOOR LAYOUT



2ND FLOOR LAYOUT

INFO | NEBRASKA'S ELO INNOVATION INVITATIONAL

Take the conference survey!



Scan the QR code above or use the following link to complete the short post-conference survey:

https://ncff.qualtrics.com/jfe/form/SV_4JeeX6Guv8qiykC

Find post-conference resources:



To access presentation slides and conference resources, scan the QR code above or visit:

<https://beyondschoolbells.org/resources/innovation-invitational/>

CONFERENCE CENTER PARKING

Parking is available to attendees in the lot "Conference Parking" lot North of Transformation Drive. To pay for parking, use the **Passport Parking app (Zone 9900)** or go to m.ppprk.com. Parking is enforced 8am-6pm, Monday-Saturday.

For more information, please see the NIC parking website: <https://innovate.unl.edu/parking-nic>



Register and pay in one of two ways.

1. Download the app "Passport Parking".
2. Visit the Passport website at m.ppprk.com