



Innovating Amidst Uncertainty

MARCH 10-12, 2025

UNL Innovation Campus Lincoln, NE





MONDAY, MARCH 10, 2025

6:30PM

OPENING PANEL

Banquet Hall

Today's Challenges, Tomorrow's Successes: Afterschool in a Changing World

In this opening panel discussion, we will explore the unique challenges confronting today's youth and how afterschool and summer programs, working in partnerships with schools and other youth serving organizations, can provide Nebraska youth with the support they need to thrive in school and in life. Key topics to be explored include the needs of the Whole Child, opportunities for youth to cultivate purpose, and opportunities to collaborate with school day programs to help address the lingering effects of COVID-19 interrupted learning on NE youth.

Welcome and Introduction: Dr. Alison O'Toole **Moderator:** former State Senator Anna Wishart

Panelists: NDE Commissioner Dr. Brian Maher | Stephanie Malia Krauss |

Dr. Anthony Burrow

SPEAKER BIOS



Dr. Brian Maher Nebraska Commissioner of Education

Dr. Brian Maher is a long-time educator with strong Nebraska roots. Beginning as a teacher at Elkhorn and Clarks Public Schools, Dr. Maher held several administrative positions before becoming superintendent at both Centennial Public Schools (1999-2007) and Kearney Public Schools (2007-2015) in Nebraska. His last superintendency was at Sioux Falls School District (South Dakota) from 2015 to 2020; a 25,000-student school system where he led during the beginning stages of the COVID-19 pandemic. As a school superintendent, he successfully led four bond referendums in three different school districts. From 2020-23, he was the CEO of the South Dakota Board of Regents. Dr. Maher began his tenure as Nebraska's Commision of Education in July 2023.

Dr. Maher is on the panel for Monday evening's Today's Challenges, Tomorrow's Successes event.



Stephanie Malia Krauss

Stephanie Malia Krauss is an educator, social worker, and leading national voice on preparing and caring for young people in an ever-changing world. Through her consulting firm First Quarter Strategies, she collaborates with global and national networks, philanthropies, nonprofits, government organizations, schools and increasingly Nebraska-based partners, to shape policies and practices that help young people thrive. Stephanie is the author of "Whole Child, Whole Life: 10 Ways to Help Kids Live, Learn, and Thrive," "Making It: What Today's Kids Need for Tomorrow's World," and the forthcoming "Wired to Thrive: 16 Essentials to Help Kids Navigate Stress, Mental Health, and Tough Times." Her insights have been featured on NPR, PBS NewsHour, US News, and Insider. Stephanie is a senior advisor to the Children's Funding Project and Youth-Nex at the University of Virginia.

Hear Stephanie Malia Krauss as a part of the opening panel on Monday March 10, the lunch keynote, and a Whole Child, Whole Life Coaching Session on Tuesday March 11.

BIOS | NEBRASKA'S ELO INNOVATION INVITATIONAL



Dr. Anthony Burrow

Dr. Burrow, a Lincoln High School Alumni, is also the Ferris Family Associate Professor of Life Course Studies in the Department of Psychology at Cornell University, where he is the Associate Dean for Outreach and Extension in the College of Human Ecology, and Director of both the Bronfenbrenner Center for Translational Research and the Program for Research on Youth Development and Engagement (PRYDE). Dr. Burrow received his B.A. in Psychology from the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill, and his Ph.D. in Applied Developmental Psychology from Florida International University. Dr. Burrow's research investigates purpose in life as a psychological resource among adolescents and emerging adults.

Dr. Burrow is on the panel for Monday evening's Today's Challenges, Tomorrow's Successes event.

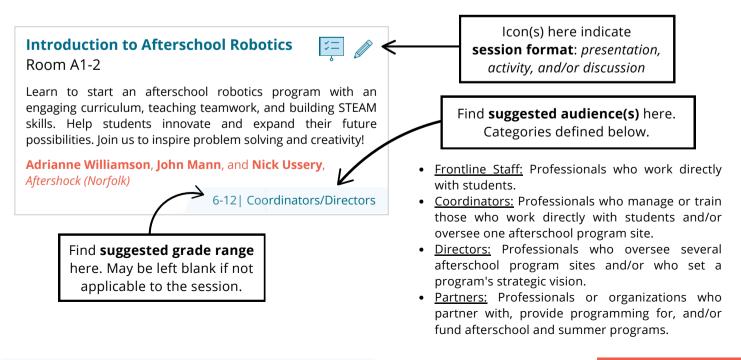


Dr. Patrick Hill

Dr. Hill is a Professor of Psychological and Brain Sciences at Washington University in St. Louis. Dr. Hill's research focuses on how individuals explore options for and ultimately commit to a purpose for life, and how having a sense of purpose predicts important life outcomes. In addition, he examines the lifespan development of prosocial personality characteristics, such as gratitude and forgiveness, as well as how these traits influence relationships. His research considers these questions with the intent of promoting healthy development from adolescence into older adulthood.

Hear from Dr. Hill for his Tuesday morning keynote: Exploring and Promoting Purpose.

SESSION DETAILS KEY



DAY 1: TUESDAY, MARCH 11, 2025

8:30-9:00 AM

Check-in and Breakfast, Banquet Hall

9:00-10:00 AM

OPENING PLENARY:

Banquet Hall

Exploring and Promoting Purpose via Afterschool

Schools are increasingly interested in promoting both academic achievement and healthy student development, a focus leading schools to consider strategies to help students cultivate purpose and direction. This talk will start by providing a non-academic framework for understanding purpose before discussing why purpose matters, highlighting implications for educational success and emotional wellbeing. The talk will conclude by describing recent efforts to help identify opportunities to promote purpose development among youth.

Dr. Patrick Hill, Washington University St. Louis

10:00-10:15 AM

Break

10:15-11:15 AM

SESSION 1: WORKSHOPS

Challenging Behaviors & Student Engagement | Room A1-2



Engaging Teens in STEM Exploration through Teen Science Cafés | Room A3



This session will dive into strategies to support behavior management in an afterschool setting. We will discuss the importance of relationships, how to keep students engaged, and concrete strategies you can use in your program.

Hayley Jackson Perez, UNL Extension

K-8 | Frontline Staff

Teen Science Cafés (TSC) are free out-of-school time programs where teen leaders, adult leaders, and STEM experts collaborate on presentations and activities which explore science topics. Join us to learn about TSC programs and how to start one at your site!

Katev Ahman. Teen Science Café Network and Sierra Burrows. Holdrege Area Public Library

9-12 | Coordinators

Engaging Families through STEM Backpacks



Room B1-2

Are you looking for ideas to engage families in your program? Do you want to bring STEM experiences for your families? We will talk about how to use STEM backpacks in an afterschool program, and will do one of the activities from the backpacks.

Ann O'Connor, UNL 4-H **Stacy Shepherd**, Cardinal Community Learning Center (Crete)

K-8 | Frontline/Coordinators

From Data to Dollars: How to Leverage **Evaluation for Sustainability** | Room B3



Participants will engage with their own data in order to develop plans for sustainability. The presenters will work with programs on how to tell their story and apply for additional funds in a way that leverages data they already collect.

Jolene Johnson, UNMC-MMI **Rebecca Monnier,** *Nebraska Children and Families Foundation*

Directors

Empowering Families with Findhelp: Connecting [to Community Collaboratives | Room C



This session explores collective impact and gives practical ways to utilize the "No Wrong Door" approach to support children and families. Learn how to use Findhelp, a free platform to connect families to local resources and Community Collaboratives.

Ien Hale and **Leonor Fuhrer** Nebraska Children and **Families Foundation**

Frontline/Coordinators/Directors

Youth Development Programs as a Context == for Purpose Exploration | Banquet Hall



This workshop will explore the experiences that help young people find their purpose in life. As a case study, this talk will present the Contribution Project as an example of purposedriven activities that can be incorporated into youth programs.

Christopher Davis, *Program for Research on Youth Development* and Engagement (PRYDE)

6-12 | Coordinators/Directors/Partners

DAY 1: TUESDAY, MARCH 11, 2025

11:15-11:30 AM

Break

11:30-12:00 PM

SESSION 2: DISCUSSION SESIONS

Afterschool HEALs (Health, Education, Administration, and Literacy) | Banquet Hall



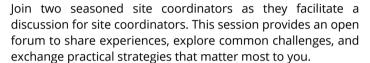
Since its publication in September of 2022, Richard Reeve's Of Boys and Men has spurred important conversations around boys declining academic performance, engagement in the workforce and overall quality of life. In this open discussion, we will explore boys' unique challenges, opportunities programs have to meet these needs, and BSB's new programming initiative. Afterschool HEALS, designed to increase boys' interest in the HEAL (Health, Education, Administration and Literacy) professions and career exploration.

Jeff Cole, Nebraska Children and Families Foundation

Directors/Partners

Site Coordinator Roundtable

Room A1-2



Chelsea Sidel and Stacy Shepherd, Cardinal Community Learning Center

Coordinators

Policy in Action: Navigating Legislation's Impact on Afterschool Programs | Room A3



Join this session for an engaging discussion on the current state of legislation and policy and the impact current legislation may have on afterschool programs. Leave equipped with more knowledge about state-level policy!

Robert Patterson, Kids Can Amy Bennett, Grand Island YWCA

Directors/Partners

Game On: Disruptus and The Mind

Room B1

In this hands-on session, you'll play two board games-Disruptus and The Mind—that are designed to spark disruptive thinking and creative problem-solving. Play for fun and for a chance to win a copy of a game to take back to your program!

Stephanie Vadnais and Alana Pearson, Beyond School Bells

Frontline Staff

Building Bridges: What Makes a Good Partnership? | Room B2



Join us for a discussion-based session where we explore the critical question, "What makes a good partnership?" Share your experiences of being an effective partner and reflect on the qualities that have made partnerships work for you.

Kaitlin Roselius, Woods Tennis Center

Partners

Afterschool Storytelling: Crafting Compelling Narratives for Program Success | Room B3



A well-told story can be a very powerful tool. Come explore how to harness local insights and America After 3PM data to craft narratives that spotlight your afterschool program's impact. Through this discussion, you'll walk away with fresh ideas to elevate your program in your community and across the state.

Brenda Weyers, Nebraska Children and Families Foundation

Directors

Service-Learning and Environmental Education | Room C



Service-learning is a proven approach to help build student purpose. This session will host a conversation about Service-Learning programming alongside Environmental Education. BSB will share ongoing efforts to develop programming for gardening and conservation activities. Come ready to share your own examples too!

Dakota Staggs and Alexus Hansen, Beyond School Bells

Frontline/Coordinators

Presentation



Discussion

DAY 1: TUESDAY, MARCH 11, 2025

12:00-1:15 PM

LUNCH KEYNOTE

Banquet Hall

Whole Child, Whole Life

Stephanie Malia Krauss has become a regular in Nebraska. Over the past two years, the Illinois-based education thought leader and writer has been working closely with Nebraska 4H Extension, BSB and the NE Department of Education to help design strategies to support a Whole Child approach in ELO programs.

This lunch mini-keynote picks up where her 2024 GetConnected keynote left off - focusing on how afterschool professionals can help youth thrive in today's challenging world by utilizing a Whole Child approach. This lunch keynote will be followed by an optional roll-up-your-sleeves, extended 2-hour workshop (3:15-5:15pm) here in the Banquet Hall, where we will delve into the tools we need to bring these ideas into our practices.

Stephanie Malia Krauss, Author

1:15-2:00 PM

SESSION 3: WORKSHOPS

Engaging Caregivers in Planning a STEM Family Engagement Event | Room A1



The Building Blocks to Crisis Response Room A2



Join us to explore ways to bring caregivers together to plan and lead activities that will bring other families through the door! You will also get a planning tool and resources to do a STEM Around the World family event.

Dayna Krannawitter, Arnold CLC/Lincoln Housing Authority

K-8 | Coordinators/Directors

The Standard Response Protocol (SRP) assists anyone in a time of crisis and is something MOST schools in Nebraska use!

Learn the SRP steps and how they can be implemented in your afterschool program.

Scott Stemper, *Nebraska Department of Education*

Frontline/Coordinators/Directors

Summer Literacy Pilot Program Room A3









Nebraska Growing Readers is partnering with Beyond School

Bells to run literacy pilots this summer that will help you engage young people in reading and the publication process! Brainstorm what projects could look like at your site and learn about the grant application process.

Greta Carlson, Nebraska Growing Readers Mike McGuffee, Unite for Literacy

K-12 | Coordinators/Directors

Sports and MakerSpaces - Engaging Middle Schoolers in OST Camps





Room B1 | Space limited to 20

Participants will learn how the Lincoln CLC middle schools have worked together to create sports and STEM out-of-school time (OST) camps for students. Then, we will tour the MakerSpace camp right here at Nebraska Innovation Studios!

Kristi Chambers. Lincoln Public Schools CLCs **Alexis Rieck**, Boys and Girls Club of Lincoln/Lancaster County

6-8 | Coordinators/Directors

Teens as Teachers: Growing Leaders in Afterschool Programs | Room B2



The Farm Bureau Foundation has empowered high school students to lead "Let's Get Growing" activities in afterschool. Learn how teens are stepping into leadership roles, guiding youth through hands-on activities about food scalability, and helping meet the need for educators in afterschool programs.

Brooke Carpenter, Nebraska Agriculture in the Classroom and Madeline P., Oakland-Craig

K-12 | Coordinators/Directors

Bringing iCivics to your Community!



Room B3

Looking to engage students in civics during out-of-school programming? Join us for a hands-on session exploring free instructional materials from iCivics and discover professional learning opportunities that support high-quality civic education in your community!

Mya Baker and Ryan New, iCivics

K-12 | Frontline/Coordinators

2:00-2:15 PM

Break

DAY 1: TUESDAY, MARCH 11, 2025

SESSION 4: WORKSHOPS 2:15-3:00 PM

Celebrating Afterschool Professionals and Advocating for your Program | Room A1



Harvest of the Month: Farm to School Lessons Beyond the Bell | Room A2



Learn best practices and strategies to appreciate afterschool staff. Plus, start planning for this year's Lights On Afterschool. Leave with actionable ideas, success stories, and a toolkit to make Afterschool Professionals Week and LOA 2025 a success!

Patricia Sanchez Stewart

Beyond School Bells

K-12 | Coordinators/Directors

Explore hands-on activities from our new Harvest of the Month afterschool lessons and learn how to integrate farm to school activities like taste testing and gardening into afterschool clubs. You'll leave with practical ideas to bring to your students!

Sarah Meyer and Emily Hulse, Nebraska Department of Education

K-5 | Frontline/Coordinators

Expanding the Entrepreneurial Mindset | Room A3









Nebraska 4-H is being creative in how we develop the entrepreneurial mindset in youth. Learn how you can teach this mindset to youth in your program to ensure they have the skills to navigate complex challenges and opportunities in today's changing workplaces.

Molly Brandt, Nebraska 4-H

K-12 | Frontline/Coordinators

Cultivating Curious Readers Room B1





Linked2Literacy's Book Bridge Program empowers families and caregivers by teaching reading strategies to cultivate curiosity and enhance literacy. Explore the Curiosity Pillar and share your insights about kids in grades 4-8 so that this developing resource can be useful for programs and families!

Kathleen Ousey, Amy Budler, and Merrick Mason, Linked2Literacy

3-8 | Frontline/Partners

From Vision to Impact: Strategies for a Successful Summer Program | Room B2



Join a middle school program director as she shares her stepby-step approach to planning a successful summer program. Learn strategies for organization and partner engagement, and walk away with practical resources and tips for success!

Michelle Paris, York Public School Afterschool Program

How to Engage High School Staff in **Creating and Facilitating Clubs** | Room B3



This session will be presented by three high school students who lead programming at the Edgerton Explorit Center. These students will discuss how they created and facilitated their lessons and give tips to engage your high school staff.

Mary Molliconi, Lilli C., Dawson S., and Dominic F., Edgerton Explorit Center

K-12 | Coordinators/Directors

3:15-5:15 PM

Banquet Hall

Optional Whole Child, Whole Life Coaching Session with Stephanie Malia Krauss

5:30-7:30 PM

EVENING OF YOUTH INSPIRATION

Banquet Hall

Enjoy a dinner program exploring youth-led afterschool experiences and get a sneak peek at the future of afterschool. Learn from North Platte youth about how afterschool influenced their budding education careers; how youth staff in afterschool programs across Nebraska are bringing the future of afterschool to life; and how Lincoln High School students will help build community through their participation in an innovative new national program.

North Platte Para to Teachers Program

Jack Buscher and Bailey Zona, North Platte Kids Klub

Youth Leadership Council Panel

6-8 | Frontline/Coordinators/Directors

Moderator: Lauren Clark, Beyond School Bells | Panelists: Britney A., Rafa A., Lilli C., and Tabby P.

The Contribution Project at Lincoln High School: Teens Building Community

Moderator: Casey Adrian, Cornell University | Youth Panelists from the LHS Contribution Project

DAY 2: WEDNESDAY, MARCH 12, 2025

8:30-9:00 AM

Check-in and Breakfast, Banguet Hall

9:00-10:00 AM

CLOSING PLENARY

Banquet Hall

Putting the Pieces Together

How do afterschool programs and advocates move forward in these uncertain, challenging times? Centering on our discussions about purpose, meeting the needs of the whole child and elevating the next generation of youth leaders, we will close our gathering with a discussion on new opportunities to help support and position afterschool programs for continued success in a changing world.

leff Cole, Beyond School Bells

10:00-10:15 AM

Break

10:15-11:00 AM

SESSION 1: WORKSHOPS

Literacy and Lobs for a Lifetime

Room A1-3

Ever think you would play tennis in a conference room? Join us and experience research-based curricula that combines critical literacy skills with movement and the sport of tennis. We provide everything you need -racquets, balls, coaching tips and tricks, and everything in between. Game-Set-Match!

Kaitlin Roselius and Niki Figard, Woods Tennis Center

K-5 | Frontline/Coordinators

Prime Time for Pathways: Harnessing Afterschool for Career Alignment | Room B1



Afterschool hours are untapped goldmines for aligning education with workforce needs. Learn how to use afterschool time and a community schools approach to create programs that equip students with the skills employers demand.

loe DiCostanzo. Nebraska Children and Families Foundation

9-12 | Directors/Partners

A Success Story: How Connections and





Hosting A Successful Family Engagement [=] Event | Room B3





Family engagement events provide our students time to shine, promote the importance of our programs, and are so rewarding. Come learn and discuss tips and tricks for hosting a successful event!

Chelsea Sidel and Stacy Shepherd, Cardinal Community Learning Center (Crete)

K-12 | Coordinators/Directors

Cocoa Worked in Walthill | Room B2





"Our kids absolutely love your program." It's working! A school, a nonprofit, community partners, and funders built something simple and remarkably impactful at Walthill. A conversation on how tents, cocoa, showing up, and humility may change everything.

lan Kimmer and Mitch Findley, Go Beyond Danielle Pickering, Walthill Public Schools

6-8 | Frontline/Coordinators/Directors/Partners

DAY 2: WEDNESDAY, MARCH 12, 2025

11:00-11:15 AM

Break

11:15-12:00 PM

SESSION 2: WORKSHOPS

Introduction to Afterschool Robotics Room A1-2





Friends Are the New GPA: Why Social Bonds 🞏 Matter More Than Straight As | Room B1



Learn to start an afterschool robotics program with an engaging curriculum, teaching teamwork, and building STEAM skills. Help students innovate and expand their future possibilities. Join us to inspire problem solving and creativity!

Adrianne Williamson, John Mann, and Nick Ussery, Aftershock (Norfolk)

6-12 | Coordinators/Directors

Academic success gets youth to college, but friendships get them through life. This session explores the power of social connections for resilience, mental health, and success, offering ways to cultivate environments where friendships thrive.

Joe DiCostanzo, Nebraska Children and Families Foundation

6-12 | Directors/Partners

The Importance of Literacy Afterschool Room B2



Learn, Adapt, Succeed: The Power of After-Action Reviews | Room B3



Learn about the benefits of shared and independent reading and how you can build literacy into what you're already doing in your program. Learn how afterschool programs can join Nebraska Growing Readers in their goal to increase shared and independent reading for kids and their families.

Greta Carlson, Nebraska Growing Readers Mike McGuffee, Unite for Literacy

K-12 | Frontline/Coordinators/Directors/Partners

Join us to explore how After-Action Reviews (AARs) can help you turn lessons learned into clear, actionable steps. Learn techniques for reflecting that lead to better results in any project or program. Get ready to reflect, collaborate, and sharpen your evaluator mindset for greater impact!

Rebecca Monnier and Jackie Belcher, Nebraska Children and **Families Foundation**

Coordinators/Directors/Partners

12:00-1:00 PM

LUNCH

Banquet Hall

It's a Wrap!

Conference reflections and take homes.

OPPORTUNITIES | NEBRASKA'S ELO INNOVATION INVITATIONAL

Regional **Connections**



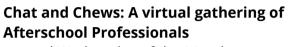
AND CHEW

Regional Connections will look different this spring – travel to see another program during the month of April!

Find dates, locations, and sign up information using the QR code or by visiting https://beyondschoolbells.org/resources/. Spots will be limited at some locations, so sign up today!



Regional Connections & Chat and Chews



Second Wednesday of the Month 12:30-1:00 PM CT/11:30 am-12:00 pm MT

Next Meeting: **April 9, 2025**Marketing your Program:

Creating a Program One Pager

For more information, Zoom link, and past recordings, use the QR code or the link below https://beyondschoolbells.org/resources/.



YOUNG PROFESSIONALS LEADERSHIP CAMP

August 6-8, 2025 | Camp Comeca | Cozad

This experience will bring young afterschool professionals together for training, connection and leadership development. Learn more about this great team building opportunity and register using the QR code or this link: https://beyondschoolbells.org/resources/young-professionals-



Young Professionals Leadership Camp

<u>leadership-camp.html</u>

OPPORTUNITIES | NEBRASKA'S ELO INNOVATION INVITATIONAL



FRIDAY SEPTEMBER 26, 2025 *UPDATED LOCATION* YOUNES CONFERENCE CENTER NORTH KEARNEY, NE

The GetConnected 2025 Nebraska Afterschool Conference provides an opportunity to learn more about planning and implementing a quality afterschool or summer program. Sessions offered throughout the day target a variety of audiences including program leaders, program staff, teachers, school administrators, community partners, and others interested in afterschool and summer learning opportunities for children and youth.



GetConnected 2025

https://www.education.ne.gov/21stcclc/nebraska-afterschool-conference/

RESOURCES | NEBRASKA'S ELO INNOVATION INVITATIONAL

BEYOND SCHOOL BELLS TOOLKIT

This interactive toolkit, developed by Beyond School Bells, is your one-stop shop for all things related to building successful afterschool and summer programs. These important programs help improve kids' learning, behavior and social/emotional health. Browse this toolkit for downloadable resources, tips and ideas regardless of where you are with your program. https://bsbtoolkit.org/



BSB Toolkit

BEYOND SCHOOL BELLS CURRICULUM

Access FREE curriculum developed by partners for Afterschool Programs and piloted in Afterschool programs! Find curriculum on a wide variety of topics including STEM, College and Career Readiness, Environmental Education, and 21st Century Skills!

https://beyondschoolbells.org/curriculum/



BSB Curriculum

THINK MAKE CREATE (TMC) LAB

The Think Make Create (TMC) Lab is a unique mobile maker platform specifically designed to meet Nebraska's rural Expanded Learning Opportunity programs. Beyond School Bells has fully stocked labs available for programs to borrow at no cost and can be customized based on program needs.

https://beyondschoolbells.org/mobile-maker-space/



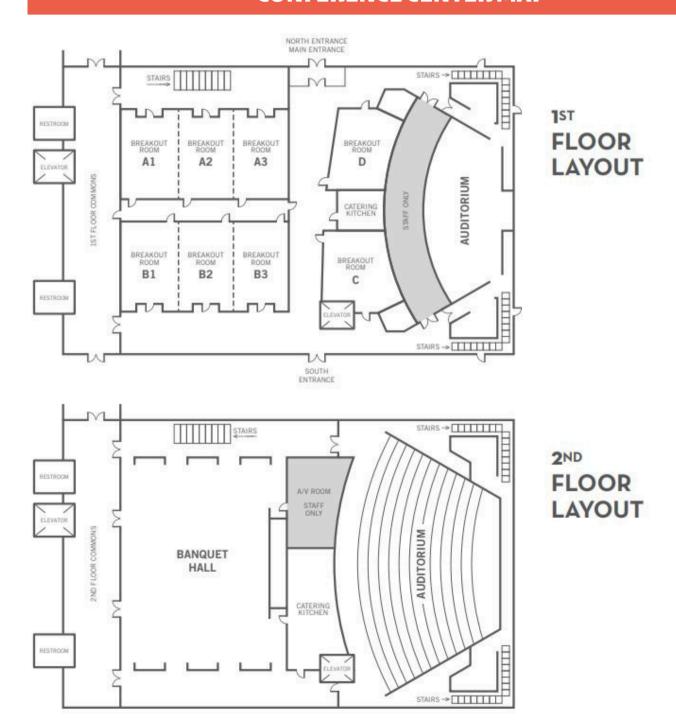
TMC Labs

WIFI INFORMATION

Network: NU-Guest Username: March

Password: Innovate2025!

CONFERENCE CENTER MAP



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/

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Find post-conference resources:



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

https://beyondschoolbells.org/
innovation-invitational/

CONFERENCE CENTER PARKING

Parking is availabile 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 <u>m.ppprk.com</u>. 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



