

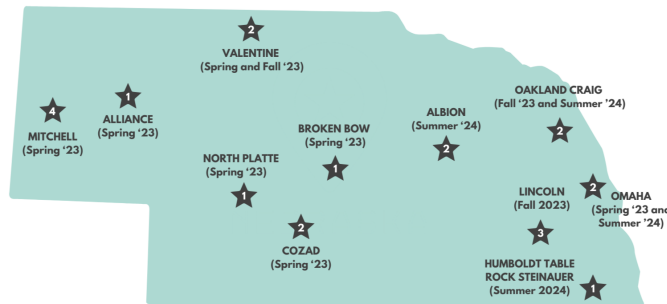
Subject: Beyond School Bells Newsletter-August 2024
Date: Thursday, August 8, 2024 at 8:08:44 AM Central Daylight Time
From: Beyond School Bells



August 2024

Updates and Announcements

Summer Youth Leadership Council (YLC) 2024 Recap

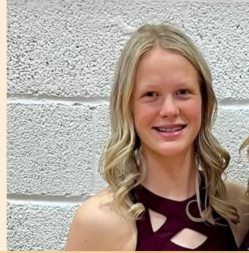


Shayfer C.
Table Rock, NE | HTRS Afterschool Program



Madeline P.

Craig, NE | Oakland-Craig Afterschool Program



Adilynn S.

Albion, NE | Boone Central Afterschool Program



Autumn S.

Albion, NE | Boone Central Afterschool Program



MajieAhna W.

Omaha, NE | Ladies in Info Tech (LIIT)

This summer, five outstanding high school student staff completed the Summer 2024 YLC experience! Over the month of July, these students participated in training, learned about each other's afterschool programs, and completed their YLC Project Proposals in which they presented a leadership project to their community's afterschool director to make a positive impact on the students and staff in their program.

To learn more about these students, read about their YLC Project Proposals, or to learn more about the council, check out our website!

[Read More!](#)

Beyond School Bells Toolkit – Updated!

Nuts & Bolts +
Staffing & PD +
Programming +
Sustainability +
Contact Us

CCR Toolkit
Curriculum
NE Centers of Excellence
Mizzen by Mott

Professional Development

Leadership

The role of a leader is one of great responsibility. These resources can inspire you to become an effective and dedicated leader committed to service.

- [Helpful Tips from Afterschool Directors – Beyond School Bells](#)

The Beyond School Bells Toolkit has been updated! If you are looking for professional development, programming best practices, free curricula, or even tips on building local partnerships, we encourage you to check out this great free resource.

Visit the Toolkit

Events and Resources



GetConnected

Nebraska Afterschool Conference

GetConnected 2024 is just around the corner. **Get Connected** is taking place at the Younes Conference Center South in Kearney on September 27th 2024. Registration is now open – you can register you and your team at the conference website on the Nebraska Department of Education’s website [here](#). We encourage you to visit the website to find out more about the conference.

Acclaimed author and speaker Stephanie Malia Krauss will be this year’s keynote speaker and her morning keynote and follow up breakout group will focus on how NE’s AS and Summer programs can help support the full development of Nebraska’s youth. Her presentations are based on insights some of the lessons learned from her book [Whole Child, Whole Life](#) and all registered participants in GetConnected will receive a free copy of Dr. Krauss’s book and interact with her throughout the conference. So get registered now!

The GetConnected Conference is a longstanding partnership between the Nebraska Department of Education’s 21st Century CLC program, Nebraska 4H Extension and Beyond School Bells, with

annual gatherings rotating between Kearney and Omaha. Information on the conference can be found [here](#).

Register

Bring Your High School Student Staff to GetConnected

We invite you to bring your High School age staff along with you to GetConnected to participate in the inaugural **Young ELO Professionals Leadership Summit**. During this unique morning session designed for high school staff, young leaders will have a chance to build their skills and connect with other teenage staff. Through highly interactive sessions, Summit attendees will learn about child and youth developmental stages; healthy relationships, ethics, and boundaries; as well as the essential skills that will help them be successful staff in Afterschool and Summer programs. Want to bring young staff members with you to GetConnected but you're not sure how you can swing it? Beyond School Bells wants to help!

If interested, reach out to Stephanie Vadnais, svadnais@nebraskachildren.org or Alana Pearson, apearson@nebraskachildren.org.

Upcoming Free Training Opportunities

Building off of great learning and connecting at GetConnected, put these upcoming Professional Development opportunities on your calendar:

Regional Connections



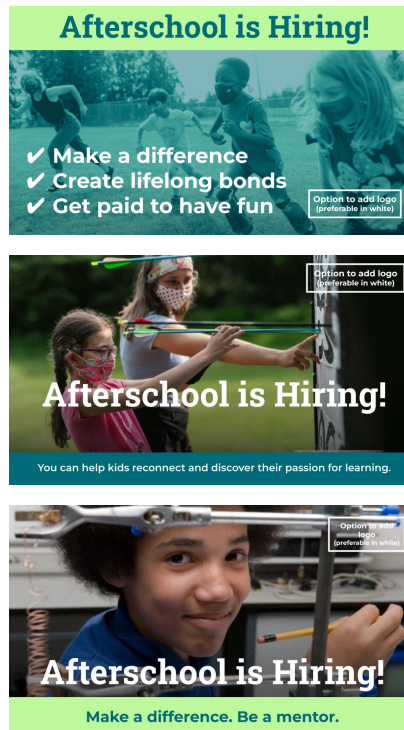
Beyond School Bells, The Nebraska Department of Education 21stCentury Community Learning Centers, and Nebraska Extension are partnering to provide FREE regional professional development to afterschool providers. The in-person and virtual professional development and networking sessions will be held across the state in four regional hubs during the 2024-25 school year. The Regional Connections PD will focus on three areas: The essentials of running an afterschool and/or summer program, afterschool and the “Whole Child,” and program partnerships and sustainability.

For Fall 2024 dates, locations, and more information see our [website](#) or reach out to Stephanie Vadnais, svadnais@nebraskachildren.org.

Afterschool Chat & Chews

Topic specific trainings and discussions via Zoom on the **second Wednesday of each month** starting September 11, 2024. Topics will range from staff culture, school building relationships, summer learning planning, and more! To receive the Zoom invitation, reach out to Alana Pearson, apearson@nebraskachildren.org.

Afterschool Alliance Staff Recruitment Toolkit



Looking to hire new staff for the school year? Check out this amazing staff recruitment toolkit made by Afterschool Alliance. The toolkit includes customizable ads, graphics, and even email templates and is entirely free to use!

Staff Recruitment Toolkit

Upcoming Opportunities

Mini-Grant Opportunity: Eco City Build Clubs

Nebraska's communities are growing and innovating along all kinds of opportunities. As our communities grow and change, so too will the need for today's learning opportunities to evolve to prepare students for the ever-changing future. What better way than to combine engaging club activities with a hands-on project? Beyond School Bells is excited to announce the next iteration of our tried-and-true afterschool program, **City Build 2040!** The City Build challenge is evolving from a stand-alone event to an elementary or middle school club composed of locally relevant topics that connect to a City Build 2040 Challenge. We will add renewed attention to the environmental

challenges and strengths of Nebraska’s communities and work with students to address challenges and create service-learning opportunities.

In collaboration with National Geographic’s [Slingshot Challenge](#), BSB will be supporting Eco City Build clubs. BSB will advise HS students who help run these clubs to create 1-minute videos about environmental challenges they wish to address and will help students to incorporate those ideas into club programming. Students can address challenges like food waste, habitat conservation, opportunities for local renewable energy, or other environmental opportunities that students identify. Clubs will be supported to implement activities including engineering, energy, food systems, conservation, and environmental education as well as Civic Nebraska’s [Service-Learning](#) hub for student-directed projects.

BSB will offer **mini grants** to support staff oversight of club activities, high school student leadership, and supplies for activities and a family engagement event to celebrate students’ efforts. Email Dakota Staggs (dstaggs@nebraskachildren.org) for more information or to request an application.

Service-Learning Opportunity for Grades 6-12

Applications due September 13th



Are you passionate about making a difference in your community? Do you want to empower young people to be leaders and innovators? The [National Youth Leadership Council \(NYLC\)](#) presents an incredible opportunity for youth to drive change in their schools and communities through the Youth as Solutions program. Participants will engage in meaningful activities, develop leadership skills, and work collaboratively to make a real difference in their communities.

[Youth as Solutions](#) is a dynamic opportunity designed to inspire and equip young people with the tools they need to address pressing community challenges. This initiative focuses on harnessing the power of youth-led projects to create sustainable and impactful solutions. Teams of at least two young people (grades 6-12) and an adult mentor can apply now for leadership training, professional development, resources and tools, activity funding, and more! Students will investigate an issue in one of the given priority areas, plan a project that addresses the issue, take action, demonstrate their learning, and reflect along the way! Applications are open until September 13th.

[Learn More](#)

[Application](#)

Afterschool Programs are Invited to the Nebraska Farm to School Summit!
Kearney, NE | October 17th-18th



Calling all Farm to School Stakeholders! (Yes, that includes you). The Nebraska Department of Education will be hosting the Nebraska Farm to School Summit this October 17th and 18th at the Holiday Inn Conference Center in Kearney. The [Nebraska Farm to School](#) team will officially launch the statewide Farm to School Network and provide resources for all stakeholders (farmers and producers, school food service staff, educators, administrators, and more). The summit will provide resources, support, and connections to make Farm to School easier for all. The conference will begin at 12:00 PM on Thursday, October 17, and conclude at 2 PM on Friday, October 18. Register today and reach out to Sarah Meyer (sarah.m.meyer@nebraska.gov) with any questions!

Register Today!



Our Contact Information

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<http://www.NebraskaChildren.org>

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