
Subject: Beyond School Bells Newsletter-November 2021

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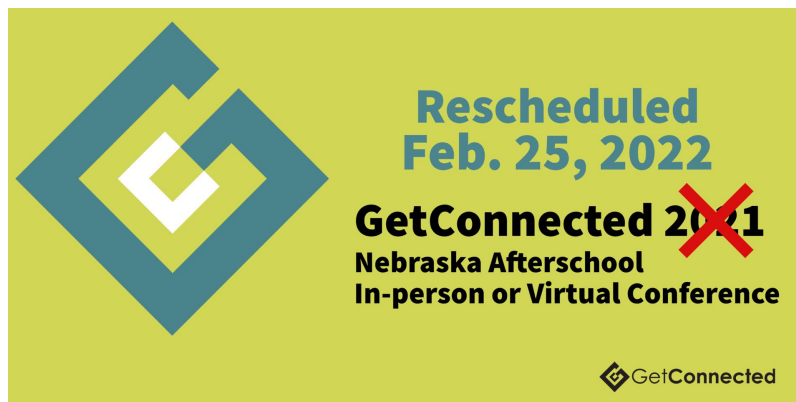


November 2021

News & Policy

Best Summer Ever!

Attend the February 2022 *GetConnected* Statewide Afterschool and Summer Learning Conference to jumpstart planning for summer.



As fall dramatically transitions to winter across Nebraska (the colors this year have been truly amazing) yes, now is the time for Afterschool programs to start planning for summer.

Together with our partners at the Nebraska Department of Education and Nebraska Extension, Beyond School Bells is excited to announce that planning and implementing **Best Summer Ever!** programming will be a central theme of our rescheduled *GetConnected* Statewide Afterschool Conference, which will be held on February 25th at the CHI Health Center in Omaha.

While it is hard to imagine this time of year, **now** is the time to start planning for successful summer programs. February's *GetConnected* will provide an opportunity for community teams to come together to get practical information about how you can plan, schedule, staff and implement high quality summer programs that build on local strengths to provide youth with fun, engaging, hands-on learning experiences they will not forget.

February's *GetConnected* conference will be a hybrid event, with a full array of in-person group sessions and workshops as well as opportunities for on-line participation, including six rooms set up for live streaming workshops for both remote and in person attendees and 9 rooms providing opportunities for in person attendees to get hands-on workshops experiences.

Register Your Team Now!

Nebraska ELO Programs: A Closer Look

Eco City Build

Crete students imagine what their world may look like in 2050!



Have you ever wondered what your city will look like in 2050? Where will it get its energy? What will the business district look like?

Crete students considered questions like these in their first pilot of BSB's Eco City Build, an opportunity for them to take ownership in designing their futures!

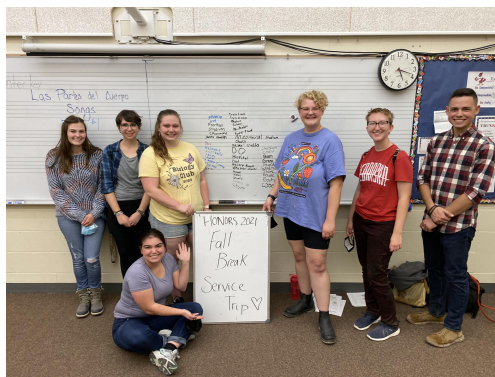
Students used "makedo kits" (like pumpkin carving tools but for cardboard) and repurposed Amazon boxes to cut out and create models of what they want to see in Crete in 30 years. They built solar and wind power plants, hotels, next generation sports arenas, flood control mechanisms and so much more!

Crete's 4-H partner, Eric Stehlik was excited by the way students interacted with one another during the build. He said "I was so impressed by the students. They were accepting and flexible with one another. The first day with the tower building exercise, one team finished

with only one member, and the other students were understanding of the limitations he had in building his tower without help."

On the final day of the build, UNL Honors students came in as "City Planners" to learn about the plans Crete students had made and help put the final touches on the model of future Crete.

This gave students the opportunity to revise with new ideas and perspectives on their designs with their near-peer college students.



Take a look at the [City Build Playbook](#) and consider challenging your students to design their future! If you have questions or would like to implement the Eco City Build modifications, please contact Dakota Staggs at dstaggs@nebraskachildren.org

Lincoln CLCs – Community Schools in Action

Lincoln CLC staff don't leap over buildings, fly through the air, or defeat villains with superhuman strength. Instead, they utilize a more reserved set of superpowers that are centered around listening, flexibility, and responsiveness. The BSB team had the privilege of talking with some Lincoln CLC staff earlier this month and learned how they use their unique set of superpowers to build community, with the school as the central hub.

The main goal of Lincoln CLC community building is to create meaningful relationships that include students, families, and neighborhoods. Lincoln CLC staff approach their tasks with an asset-based lens, building on capabilities inherent in each person, family, and community. Their toolkit of listening, flexibility, and responsiveness acts as a treasure-finder - helping staff uncover both the challenges and potential solutions tailored to each community's composition and needs.

Context and community voice guide the projects Lincoln CLC staff facilitate. One group of residents raised concern about low rates of breastfeeding and lack of quality prenatal care in their neighborhood, which led to the facilitation of a community baby shower, local businesses hosting diaper drives, and parent nutrition classes. In another, youth wanted to address food insecurity, so a partnership was created with the Boys & Girls Club and a construction company to build pantries and distribute food during the pandemic. The driving maxim of this work is that *if it benefits students and families, CLCs will find a way to make it happen*. CLC staff aren't likely to don capes and soar through the air fighting villains, but they listen, shape their agendas to meet community need, and respond by finding creative solutions to context-based problems. Sounds pretty superhuman to us - it's no wonder CLC staff are always received with warmth by those they serve.

For more information about Lincoln CLC <https://clc.lps.org/>

Resources & Opportunities

BSB Partner Resources: Million Girls Moonshot's *Camp GoldieBlox*



Camp GoldieBlox "Adventures at Eureka Point" is a multi-platform digital STEM learning experience produced by Goldieblox and Amy Poehler's *Smart Girls*. BSB's national partners with the Million Girls Moonshot worked closely with the producers to create curriculum that incorporates their Equity and Inclusion Framework, promotes an Engineering Mindset, and meets Engineering Design Standards. Afterschool programs can utilize the Camp GoldieBlox materials to create a strong foundation for STEM and STEAM in their students. The resources can be adapted to meet the needs of individual programs and are **free**, high quality, and most importantly, fun!

Each Camp GoldieBlox "campsode" presents a STEM problem where experts lend their expertise to get kids thinking while blending stories of their real-world experiences within the narrative.

CAMP GoldieBlox ALL ABOUT CLOUDS

HOW IS A CLOUD MADE?
A cloud is made of water droplets or ice crystals floating in the sky. As the Sun warms the Earth, water vapor on Earth's surface **evaporates**. When warm air rises, it expands and cools. Cool air can't hold as much water vapor as warm air, so some of the vapor **condenses** into tiny drops of water that form around particles in the sky. When billions of these droplets come together, they form a cloud!

WHAT ARE SOME TYPES OF CLOUDS?
Different types of clouds are defined by their shapes and how high they are in the sky. **Cirrus clouds** look like feathers and are high clouds. **Cumulus clouds** look like giant cotton balls and are middle clouds. **Stratus clouds** look like blankets and are low clouds.

DIY RAINCLOUDS IN A JAR

YOU WILL NEED:
- Jar
- Water
- Shaving foam
- Blue food coloring
- Pipette or dropper

STEP 1: Fill your jar about three quarters full with water.
STEP 2: Use the shaving foam to create a cloud on top of the water.
STEP 3: Let the foam settle a bit.
STEP 4: Now drop food coloring onto the foam. As your cloud fills up, the food coloring will fall down into the water creating a rain-like effect.

Educators can pick and choose how they use the curriculum. Options include:

- Full episodes
- Bite-sized content
- Hands-on activities
- and Activity sheets like this one!

Click the button below for easy access to Camp GoldieBlox materials and see for yourself how they can enrich your program!

[Explore Camp GoldieBlox Materials Here!](#)

Summer Learning = Conservation and Environmental Education

ELEVATING CONSERVATION:
Empowering + Connecting Nebraska Nature + Science Educators

Designed to meet the needs of Nebraska's conservation, environmental and science educators, this conference will provide an opportunity to forge new partnerships, learn from each other and grow the impact of conservation and environment education around the state.

Tuesday and Wednesday, January 18 and 19, 2022
Mahoney State Park, Gretna, Nebraska*

Register today at NACEE.org

*The conference is planned as an in-person event, should COVID numbers and DHM require, we will move to a virtual format.

Audubon | Sarina Creek Prairie Audubon Center | NEBRASKA GAME PARKS | NACEE

As you are planning for the *Best Summer Ever!* you will definitely want to add outdoor and environmental education into your programming mix. Don't know where to start? You are in luck - the Nebraska Alliance for Conservation and Environmental Education (NACEE) is hosting a conference in January to give you practical ideas you can use to infuse exciting, hands-on environmental and conservation themes into your community's summer (or afterschool) program.

The conference starts on Tuesday, January 18th with an opening keynote by Renae Sans Souci, Cultural Educator and Contractor, focusing on the intersection of Nebraska's indigenous community and environmental education. Concurrent sessions include presentations on climate education, afterschool programming, early childhood programming and innovative programs designed to reach new audiences... including a session by BSB's own Dakota Staggs! Wednesday's workshops and field trips include the opportunity to visit the newly renovated Schramm Education Center, learn to engage in birding without binoculars, learn about nature journaling as a tool for teaching science, insect investigations and using computer games to teach conservation.

Conference registration is \$25 for professionals, \$10 for students and includes conference meals and happy hour. More information and registration can be found at www.nacee.org.

Welcoming New NCFE Hires

Roger Garcia, NCFE's VP of Family and Community Engagement



Roger Garcia will work across NCFE programs to build collaborative partnerships between home, school, and community that maximize well-being outcomes for children, youth, and families – including BSB's afterschool and summer programs. He holds a bachelor's in psychology and Latino/Latin American studies, a Master's in Public Administration, a Master's in Theological Studies, and is currently finishing a Doctorate in Ministry. A Columbus native, Roger has extensive experience in civic and community activities, such as co-founding the Metro Young Latino Professionals Association (MYLPA) and serving on the boards for the Women's Center for Advancement,

the Immigrant Legal Center, and the Child Saving Institute. For his active community involvement, Roger was awarded the prestigious Ten Outstanding Young Omahans award. Professionally, Roger has been working in the nonprofit and public sector for over 16 years and currently serves as a Douglas County Commissioner.

Heather Gill, NDE Family and Community Engagement Specialist



Heather Gill joined our team through a unique partnership with the Nebraska Department of Education after 30 years working in systems change at the community level to actively engage families, communities and educators in partnerships. Heather values the unique strengths and needs of rural children, families, communities, and schools and works to connect system-level school and community initiatives. She believes that building strong relationships is our best program implementation strategy. In her new role supporting NDE's Office of Coordinated Student Support Service's and the 21st Century Community Learning Center Program, Heather will support the development of stronger school-community partnerships that support high quality, locally sustainable afterschool and summer programs.



Our Contact Information

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<http://www.NebraskaChildren.org>

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