
Subject: Beyond School Bells Newsletter-May 2022

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From: Beyond School Bells



May 2022

News & Policy

Nebraska's Expanded Learning Collaborative

Beyond School Bells is excited to announce the launch of our newest partnership with the Nebraska Department of Education (NDE) and their 21st Century Community Learning Center grant program – the Nebraska Expanded Learning Collaborative (ELC).

Nebraska's ELC is a two-and-a-half-year project (through the summer of 2024), funded by almost \$12 million in federal American Rescue Plan (ESSER III) funds which we will leverage with \$3 million private resources and additional local investments.

Our goal for this project is two-fold:

- First and foremost, it will help thirty-six Nebraska school districts identified by NDE launch new or expand existing afterschool and summer programming serving youth in communities hard hit by the COVID 19 pandemic. High quality afterschool and summer programs are a research-based strategy to enhance student growth and healthy development and we are confident that supporting and growing Nebraska programs will be a critical part of our efforts to reengage and accelerate learning across the state.
- The second goal of this project is to develop fun and engaging, high quality, low cost and locally sustainable models of afterschool and summer programs that can be picked up and replicated by school districts and communities across our state. To that end, BSB will be working with these thirty-six communities and evaluators from UNMC's Munroe-Meyer Institute and a research team at the Nebraska Children and Families Foundation to capture innovations, best practices and lessons learned that we can share with other communities and school districts across the state.

BSB Toolkit

 Beyond School Bells

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Quick links to our most popular, free resources

To facilitate this work, we have updated our [BSB Toolkit](#) to provide these communities, and others interested in starting or expanding their own afterschool or summer programs, with easy to access, free resources. We are also supporting Nebraska Centers of Excellence in ELO programming to develop tools and approaches that can enhance programming statewide. Finally, we are launching a major marketing and communications campaign to tell the story about the important role that afterschool and summer programs play in the lives of Nebraska youth, their schools, families and ultimately in communities across our state.

We will be using future editions of our newsletter to provide updates on this project, so keep reading for more information about this exciting initiative over the next few years.

Nebraska ELO Programs: A Closer Look

BSB's 3rd Annual Tree-a-Thon: 75 New Trees Planted Across the State!



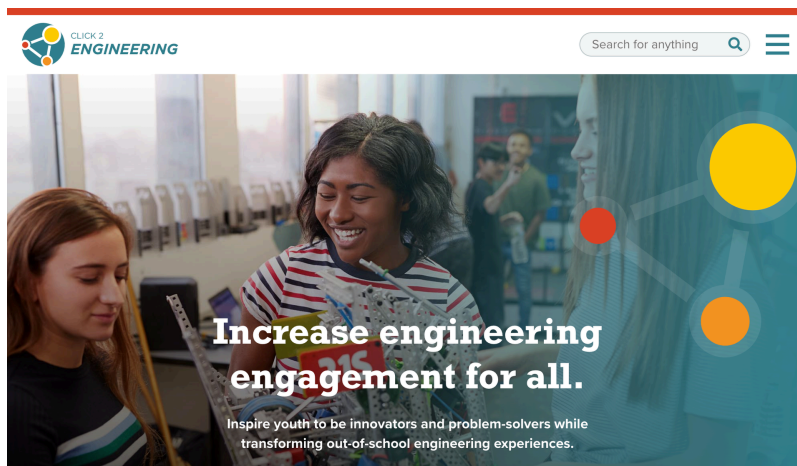
We hope you had a wonderful Arbor Day! This year BSB completed our 3rd annual Tree-a-thon and is excited to share that through the support of the Nebraska Environmental Trust, we were honored to be able to provide over 75 trees to afterschool programs across the state, nearly doubling last year's plantings. This year, afterschool programs participating in the Tree-a-thon incorporated a focus on family engagement via STEM programming. Students, parents, and siblings alike learned about the science of trees and the environment around them as well as the accessibility of enacting STEM programming. Programs were provided with the [STEM family engagement Toolkit \(pages 11-12\)](#), which we invite all programs to use!

This year students in kindergarten up to some in college were able to participate. In Beatrice, students in 5th and 6th grade visited Homestead National Historical Park in the week prior to their own planting event. Park guides highlighted mature Cottonwoods, our official Nebraska state tree, to students who were then able to plant their own Cottonwood the following week. In York, middle school students partnered with students and staff at a local college to plant trees in a new residential hall. In Lincoln, BSB partner and center of Excellence The Bay / Rabble Mill carried out plantings with their Skate for Change program and have focused on encouraging youth and families to follow suit with their own plantings with their outstanding creativity in the [video](#). Thank you to the Nebraska Environmental Trust and the many afterschool programs who participated this year. Keep planting!



Resources & Curriculum

Introducing the New Click2Engineering!



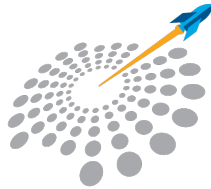
Click2Engineering is a new free resource from 4-H Youth Development, in partnership with STEM Next Opportunity Funds' Million Girls Moonshot initiative. Building on Nebraska Extension's successful Click2SciencePD, Click2Engineering is a website that provides resources and professional learning opportunities for afterschool and other out-of-school time educators in planning and leading engineering activities for youth.

Engineering is a fun way for youth to develop their STEM knowledge and skills, by engaging in real-world problem-solving activities. On this site, educators can learn more about engineering and how to lead great engineering activities with youth.

Access this free resource at <https://click2engineering.org>

Explore the Platform Now!

Million Girls Moonshot (MGM) Resources



MILLION GIRLS MOONSHOT

During the month of May, the [Million Girls Moonshot](#) celebrates Asian/Pacific American Heritage Month (AAPI Heritage Month). Our country owes a lot of our success to many hardworking, innovative AAPI computer scientists, engineers, and other STEM professionals. This month's collection of materials will support Networks and program providers as they pay tribute to and highlight a host of AAPI professionals who have contributed to the STEM fields.

[IF/THEN Collection](#)

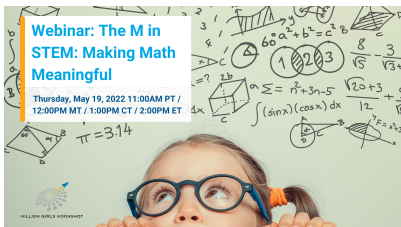


Learn about the [career path](#) of [Dr. Claire Meaders](#), an AAPI Biology Assistant Teaching Professor and IF/THEN Collection Ambassador. Print her "[This is What a Scientist Looks like](#)" poster to hang in your program space and inspire young girls in your program to shoot for the moon!

Don't know where to start in the IF/THEN Collection? Here are some tools to help you!

- [IF/THEN Collection Video Tour](#)
- [Collection Scavenger Hunt](#)
- [User Guide](#)

[MGM Featured Webinars](#)



The M in STEM: Making Math Meaningful (Thursday, May 19, 2022 1:00PM Central) Focuses on engaging and supporting youth in mathematics. We will learn from an AAAS IF/THEN® Ambassador who uses mathematics to positively impact society and share best practices and resources to help make the M in STEM meaningful and accessible in afterschool. [REGISTER HERE](#)

Webinar Recording: [NGCP Archived Webinar: Families & STEAM: Strengthening Relationships & Building Partnerships](#) Family engagement in STEAM can come in many

forms (STEAM nights, science fairs, family newsletters). You'll hear from practitioners and researchers working to deepen engagement with youth & families to intentionally support equity in and access to STEAM opportunities. Includes: strategies, examples, and current research.

MGM Activities

10 Simple Yet Thrilling Invention Ideas For Kids: These are highly engaging activities for students including directions and videos. These activities use materials that are easy to find and can be done in a family setting.

Design Squad: Invent it, Build It: Making the world a better place: Research tells us that when kids think their activity helps others it increases engagement.

8 Best Invention Ideas for Children: Try some fun and silly inventions that are very engaging: These activities are free, easy to set up, and use materials familiar to kids.

TMC Spotlight

FREE Think, Make, Create (TMC) Makerspace training in Grand Island, NE



BSB's TMC Labs have provided students in afterschool programs across the state and increasingly the nation with opportunities to collaborate and critically think through complex STEAM activities that bring learning to life. Grand Island Public Schools are leaders in this growing movement with students and staff fostering innovation through hands-on experimentation through Makerspace, their TMC Lab. The energy of Grand Island's TMC Lab was wonderfully captured in this [video](#) by our partners at I Love PS.

Building on this expertise, this year we are hosting a FREE Think, Make, Create (TMC) Makerspace training in Grand Island, NE on July 27, 8:30AM-3:00PM. Beyond School Bells and Nebraska Extension are proud to be a part of this Center of Excellence event! If you have a TMC Lab, are thinking about getting one, or are just interested to learn how to expand your STEM activities in out of school time, you will want to attend and possibly bring a colleague.

The training will consist of five segments. First, an overview of the value of STEAM activities in after school, including how it can be a showcase for a Family Night Event. Next, participants will engage in three separate hands-on makerspace projects. The afternoon will be spent working with the Technology Station kits. The closing session will be a team event with question-and-answer time and time to work on school plans. This event will be held at 3025 College St. Grand Island 68803. Lunch will be on your own as there are several restaurants in the area.

Interested participants should use [this form](#) to register for this training! Once registered, a confirmation email will be sent which will also have the exact location of the training.

Interested in learning more about TMCs? Check out our [monthly TMC Newsletters!](#)



Our Contact Information

Nebraska Children & Families Foundation
215 Centennial Mall South
Suite 200
Lincoln, NE 68508
402-476-9401
<http://www.NebraskaChildren.org>

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