

Subject: Beyond School Bells Newsletter-February 2023

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From: Beyond School Bells



Beyond School Bells
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February 2023

News & Policy

**Nebraska's Expanded Learning Opportunity (ELO) Innovation Invitational:
March 7 – 9th at Innovation Campus in Lincoln**

SAVE THE DATE

NEBRASKA'S
EXPANDED LEARNING
OPPORTUNITIES
**INNOVATION
INVITATIONAL**



It's getting closer. Beyond School Bells, in partnership with the Nebraska Department of Education and Nebraska Extension, is gathering key stakeholders and practitioners

committed to building the afterschool and summer programs today's youth need - and we need you!

This March 7th – 9th event, the **Nebraska Expanded Learning Opportunity (ELO) Innovation Invitational**, will not be your standard conference – with the information passively flowing from the podium without chances for participants to reflect and engage with the ideas presented. Instead, we are designing a multi-day format providing scaffolded opportunities for participants to engage in hands-on learning experiences, share creative ideas, learn in place and learn from youth while interacting with colleagues to build on the already strong foundation we have in Nebraska for high quality, school-based and community-linked afterschool and summer programs.

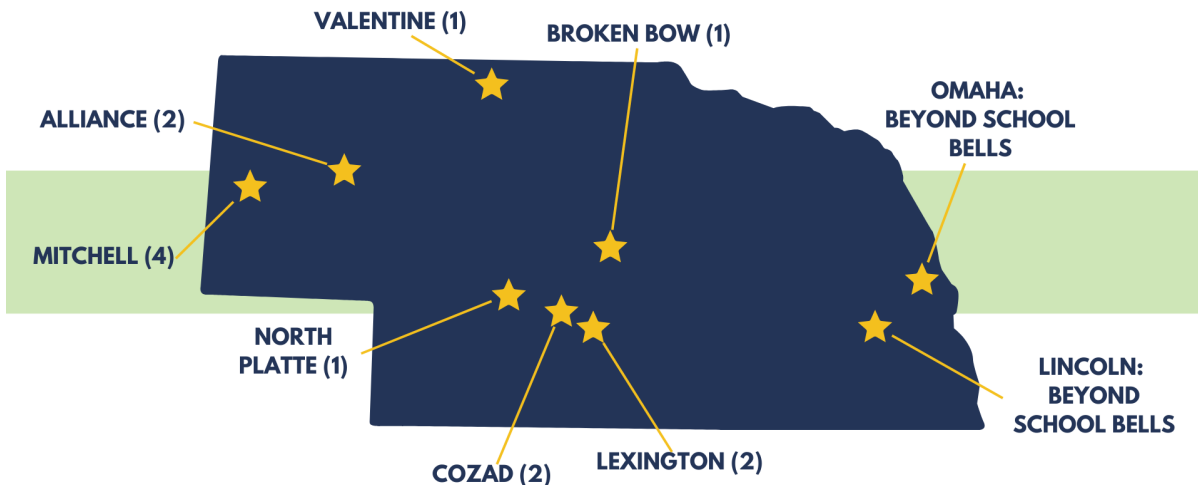
While a three-day affair, we don't expect everyone will be able to stay for the entire period (although we hope you do!). Rather, we will be carving out blocks of time for participants to engage in subject matter like Afterschool and Summer programming innovations, learning through play and hands-on activities, full-service community schools, mentoring, career exploration, how to use data to sustain your program and on a more elevated plain, how staff in afterschool and summer program can help youth cultivate a larger sense of purpose and hope.

If you are interested in finding out more, and how you can participate, visit the conference website at <https://beyondschoolbells.org/resources/innovation-invitational-2023.html> – we will be updating it weekly. If you are ready to commit to accepting new ideas and perspective, you can register for the conference by clicking the button below!

Contact Lauren Clark if you have questions at Lclark@nebraskachildren.org

Register Today!

The Inaugural Beyond School Bells Youth Leadership Council Kicked Off this Week with 13 High School Members from Across the State!



Beyond School Bells decided it was time to "walk the walk" when it came to incorporating youth voice in our work across the state. On Monday, Lauren Clark held the first Beyond

School Bells Youth Leadership Council meeting of the semester. Participants in the council are current high school students who serve as staff members in their local afterschool or summer program. The aim of the Youth Leadership Council three-fold: 1) to raise youth voice in the afterschool and summer space in Nebraska, 2) to empower high school students to take a leadership position within their program, and 3) to provide professional development to high school staff and encourage them to consider education as a career pathway.

By the end of the semester-long experience, students will ideate and propose a way to either improve upon an existing excellence or fill an unmet need within their afterschool program. Project topics could range from increased structured physical activity time to a training system for working with youth with special needs. Council members will receive training and support throughout this experience so that their final projects include budgets, timelines, and anticipated barriers to implementation. We cannot wait to see what these outstanding students will produce!



The January 12th Nebraska Women in STEM Legislative Reception was a hit! Beyond School Bells partnered with the Nebraska Women in STEM Initiative led by Bio Nebraska and Nebraska Cures to host a reception attended by afterschool professionals, STEM businesses, STEM educators, and ten Nebraska state senators from across the state to have conversations about [Million Girls Moonshot](#), the [Listen Then Act](#) report, and generally how we can support underrepresented youth in STEM.

Thank you to our sponsors who made this event possible: Nebraska Public Power District, North Platte Kids Klub, Nebraska Cures, Greater Omaha Chamber, and Bio Nebraska!

Resources & Curriculum

Ready, STEM, Go!: Inspirations & Resources for Out-of-School Time

March 14 & 15, 2023



Ready, STEM, Go! is a two-day virtual conference, which will shine a spotlight on resources, strategies, and inspiration to boost OST STEM programming.

Registration is **FREE** and grants you access to the full two days of live conference sessions, the On-Demand Video Library, Exhibit Hall, and more.

[CLICK HERE TO REGISTER!](#)

NASA Inspires Futures for Tomorrow's Youth (NIFTY)

Applications due February 18, 2023



Connect with NASA role models to your programs serving youth ages 9-14 today!

The NIFTY project is seeking 20 partners to provide NASA-themed STEM programs for underrepresented youth ages 9-14 (with a focus on girls and youth of color). Selected partners will receive \$5,000, professional development for two staff, space science STEM activities and materials to support running two programs, one July-December 2023 and the other January-June 2025. The NIFTY project is funded by NASA.

Apply Today!

Million Girls Moonshot February Resources



It's February friends! Time for Valentine's Day (2/14), Engineering Week (2/19-2/25), Black History Month and National Inventors Day (2/11). Engineers Week is a year-round commitment to celebrate how engineers make a difference in our world. Whether you meet with students in-person or virtually, you can spark their interest by talking to them about engineering, doing STEM activities, and sharing your story. **We encourage you to check out these free resources for this year's Engineering Week.**

[Discover Engineering Downloadable Resources](#) - A Collection of resources for your Engineers Week and Introduce a Girl to Engineering Day events and activities! Download logos, ads, graphics, certificates, bookmarks, and customizable language you can share.

[NGCP "10 Ways to Support Girls in STEM in 2023"](#) - A list of 10 simple ways you can support girls in STEM in 2023, along with the necessary resources to help you. Information for addressing stereotypes, introducing role models, exploring coding, and more are included in this helpful NGCP resource that can be used to kickstart your Engineering Week and

beyond.

[National Science Foundation's Engineering Classroom Resources](#) - This collection of lessons and web resources curated by the NSF is aimed at classroom teachers, their students, and student's families.

[The STEAM Playbook](#) - NGCP partnered with The Genius of Play to bring this collection of play ideas and ready-to-use activities to help spark a child's interest in these critical subjects. Check out the activities specific to Engineering to help plan your Engineering Week

[PBS Kids Engineering Games](#) - Collection of free engineering-focused games from PBS Kids

TMC Highlights

Join Us for the First Annual TMC Challenge Month in March 2023



Science, technology, engineering, math, oh my! STEM is a fundamental part of our Think, Make, Create Labs. As we have seen tremendous growth over the last several years we want to bring a sense of community to our fleet. New for March 2023, we are introducing TMC Challenge Month. This year we are going to focus on the E in STEM, engineering. Our challenge this year we will be using the 2040 CityBuild program from Beyond School Bells. CityBuild is a hands-on, minds-on experience for k-8 youth to use recycled and TMC Lab materials to build a representation of their town as they envision it will look in 2040, a time when they may be the next generation of community leaders. In the 2040 City Build, students will work with peers, city and business leaders, and event facilitators to design a city with a focus on housing, businesses, parks and recreation, transportation, water management systems, and renewable energy. There are three different options this year – 2 day build, 4 hour build, and 2 hour build. To learn more and check out each option visit our TMC Lab Community website: <https://go.unl.edu/tmcchallenge>



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