

Subject: Beyond School Bells Newsletter-May 2023

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From: Beyond School Bells

To: Lauren Clark



June 2023

News & Policy

ELO Summer Conversation Series – Innovation and Purpose
Beyond School Bells Summer Conversation Series is off and running!

Recap: May's Conversation with Dr. Tony Smith on Innovations in ELO

We were honored to have Dr. Tony Smith, CEO & Founder of *Whyspeople* and Former Illinois State Superintendent of Education, as our first guest in what is shaping up to be a monthly, web-based discussion focused on emerging issues in Afterschool and Summer programming.

Building on themes he introduced in our March ELO Innovation Invitational, Tony helped us frame innovation as **"using creativity to eliminate bias and expand opportunities."** When viewed through this lens, innovation looks less like expensive new gizmos and more like creative advances helping more young people feel an authentic sense of belonging and engagement. Innovation can mean asking better questions about what we do and how we do it. One example Tony shared is asking **"how is this kid smart?"** rather than **"how smart is this kid?"** Tony challenged us to think about how afterschool and summer learning programs have a unique opportunity to creatively explore ways, outside of formal education systems and structures, to excite, engage and inspire every child.

Check out the recording for those of you who either missed Tony's presentation or who might want to revisit some of the content and major themes from our discussion.

[Watch the Recording](#)

Cultivating Purpose: June's Conversation with Christopher Davis

These important conversations will continue on **Monday, June 26th at 12:00 Central**.

We are excited to announce that Christopher Davis, who was also key participant in our March ELO Innovation Invitational, will help us envision how ELO programs can help young people cultivate purpose. Chris is a doctoral student at Cornell University, where he works closely with Dr. Anthony Burrow, who presented a powerful keynote at our Invitational, summarized in [this video](#), about the important role of purpose in having a fulfilling life. Chris followed up Dr. Burrow's keynote with a well-received two-session workshop **on how ELO programs can help cultivate purpose in the lives of children in our programs**. His presentation on Monday June 26th will build on these important themes. Please use the button below to register for this interactive conversation.

Register

GetConnected Workshops and Walk and Talk Tables

Applications due June 13



Speaking of continuing conversations, we also want to remind you that later this fall we will be meeting in person (with on-line options) for *GetConnected 2023: Come Play!*, Nebraska's statewide Afterschool and Summer Learning Conference.

This annual event, hosted jointly by BSB, the NE Department of Education's 21st CCLC program and Nebraska Extension, will be held on **September 22, 2023 at the CHI Health Conference Center in Omaha**. This is a great opportunity to connect with afterschool program leaders and staff, as well as other community partners engaged in our important afterschool systems building work. Our goal is to have 500 in-person and virtual attendees at this year's event, which as the title suggests, will focus on the power of play to excite, engage and inspire youth across Nebraska.

As part of this year's conference we will once again offering individuals and partnering organizations an opportunity to **facilitate a workshop or host a Walk and Talk table** to share info about your program and we are now accepting proposals. So, if you want to share the story about your program, especially if it includes hands-on, play based learning activities, with hundreds of Nebraska Afterschool and Summer learning advocates – now is the chance for you to get your application in. So act now - **applications are due on June 13th**. A link to the to all the application forms, as well as additional information about the conference, can be found by clicking the button below.

More Information and Applications

Announcements & Opportunities

Register for the Students to Launch Community Event

Edgerton Explorit Center, June 30



Do you know middle school students who are looking for a once in lifetime opportunity that's FREE? The Edgerton Explorit Center is collaborating with [Students To Launch](#) provide a **hands-on NASA inspired mission to discover passions** that can lead to the possibility of a career in aerospace and astronautics. The **Students To Launch (S2L) hub event is at the Edgerton Explorit Center from 10:00 am to 2:30 pm CT on June 30th.**

During the Community Hub Event, students will interact in hands-on, role-playing NASA-inspired activity to design a prototype of an Astro Sock that protects astronauts' feet in space. Students will also design [#PostcardstoSpace](#), walk the lunar surface with the [Aldrin Family Foundation #GiantMoonMap](#), and may even get the chance to meet a Subject Matter Expert too!

Students that successfully complete the [#StudentsToLaunch](#) Community Hub event activities are eligible to be selected to attend a multi-day, in-person experience at the Kennedy Space Center and the Kennedy Space Center Visitor Complex in Florida. This all-expenses-paid trip (including all travel, meals, lodging, and programming) gives students the chance to participate in space-related education activities, tours of the Kennedy Space Center, meetings with astronauts and, hopefully, the chance to witness a rocket launch in person from special viewing areas at the Kennedy Space Center.

Please contact **Mary Molliconi, Executive Director at the Edgerton Explorit Center** at mary@edgerton.org, if you have any questions or need additional information.

Register Your Middle School Students Today

Million Girls Moonshot (MGM) Resources

ACRES Training Cohort: Asking Purposeful Questions

Fridays: 07/07/2023, 07/21/2023, 08/04/2023 1:00 - 3:00 pm EST/10:00 - 12:00 pm PST



Questions begin a path toward discovery, imagination, and STEM exploration. How can we help youth expand and clarify their thinking and develop their reasoning through the questions we ask them? This module is a great way to train staff on how to facilitate STEM learning. This is our introductory module and a prerequisite to other opportunities. *The expectation is that you will be live at all three sessions and an active member of this coaching cohort. Recordings are not available if you are unable to attend.

[REGISTER HERE](#) Code: AC250PQ

ACRES Training Cohort: Training Cohort: Elevating Youth Voice and Choice

Mondays: 08/07/2023, 08/21/2023, 09/11/2023 3:00 - 5:00 pm EST



How often do youth in your program get to choose what they're investigating or designing, the materials they might use, and/or how they engage with the work? In this module, participants try out strategies for elevating youth voice and choice and apply the ideas as they redesign a STEM activity to incorporate a greater variety of youth input. *The expectation is that you will be live at all three sessions and an active member of this coaching cohort. Recordings are not available if you are unable to attend. Completion of the Asking Purposeful Questions module is a prerequisite for this module. [REGISTER HERE](#) Code: AC251VC

Join the BSB Facebook Group for More Opportunities!

Each month, the MGM has many more free PD trainings, curriculum offerings, and other opportunities for programs that we just can't fit into the monthly newsletter. Don't fret! **Join Beyond School Bells Afterschool Group on Facebook to access the enter selection of opportunities here:** <https://www.facebook.com/groups/1036031927211932>.

Join the Bloom Box @School Program!





Hopefully you are enjoying watching gardens fill in and flowers in bloom. In case you missed introducing either of those this year, now is still a great time to plan for this fall and next spring! The Nebraska Statewide Arboretum and Nebraska Forest Service are offering a free native pollinator and tree "Bloom Box @School" program to 21st CCLC programs across the state. The project includes training and activities from Project Learning Tree along with free pollinator plants and/or trees (recommended over multiple seasons).

To be part of the Bloom Box @school program, the Statewide Arboretum and Nebraska Forest Service will need to receive a Commitment to Plant from you by July 31st. They are also happy to take commitments for future planting seasons through spring 2024 at any time.

Fill out the Commitment to Plant Form

To learn more about Bloom Box email Sarah at sarah.buckley@unl.edu or visit: plantnebraska.org/school.

Conservation Management Internship Sneak Peak



We're back! After a pandemic-related break, the Beyond School Bells Conservation Management Internship is back and underway! Two groups of young conservationists set off on their journey earlier this week. Stay tuned next month to hear how their experience has gone! Consider organizing your own local conservation experience for students in your program this summer or fall - reach out to Dakota Staggs @ dstaggs@nebraskachildren.org if you'd like assistance!

TMC Spotlight

Ensuring Quality STEM Learning via TMC Labs – an Online Course

Have new seasonal or full-time staff and need some professional development to help on-board them sooner rather than later? Our colleagues with the South Dakota and Idaho Think Make Create Lab programs have created an on-line course to help offer professional development opportunities for more frequent training access.

Visit Extension Foundation at <https://campus.extension.org/>, where they have created a course called Ensuring Quality STEM Learning. This course is aimed at helping out-of-school professionals create a quality STEM learning environment. Through the course, educators will become more familiar and comfortable with the best practices of STEM programming with a focus on Positive Youth Development. There is both a long and short version of the course to accommodate different needs and can be completed at the learner's individual pace. The five modules cover:

1. Safe Trailer Practices (safety protocol and measures)
2. Successful STEM Programming (selecting activities, putting it into practice, getting ready to make)
3. Developing STEM Practices and Mindset (active STEM learning, modeling STEM practices, asking questions)
4. Positive Youth Development (what is positive youth development, panel discussion)
5. Wrap-up (summary of course)

The course is free and can be accessed by creating a free profile when visiting the Extension Foundation. Thanks to our colleagues in Idaho and South Dakota for developing these important TMC resources!

~ Claire Sponseller, Area Extension Educator, University of Idaho Extension 4-H



Our Contact Information

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