

Subject: Beyond School Bells Newsletter-September 2022

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September 2022

News & Policy

Register for the GetConnected Conference Today!
In-person registration closes September 12

A promotional graphic for the 'GetConnected 2022 Nebraska Afterschool Conference'. At the top, a green banner reads 'SAVE THE DATE!'. Below this is the 'GetConnected' logo, which includes a stylized 'G' icon and the text 'GetConnected 2022 Nebraska Afterschool Conference'. The date 'SEPTEMBER 16, 2022' is prominently displayed in red, followed by the location 'Holiday Inn Convention Center | Kearney, NE'. The graphic is decorated with various colorful icons representing education, community, and technology. At the bottom, a red banner contains the URL 'https://www.education.ne.gov/21stcclc/nebraska-afterschool-conference/' and a Twitter icon with the hashtag '#GetConnected2022'.

GetConnected, Nebraska's Afterschool Conference is happening on Friday, September 16 at the Holiday Inn Convention Center in Kearney. GetConnected provides an opportunity to connect with other afterschool stakeholders and learn more about planning and implementing

an exciting, engaging and inspiring afterschool or summer program. Sessions offered throughout the day target a variety of audiences, including program leaders, program staff, teachers, school administrators, community partners, and others interested in afterschool and summer learning opportunities for children and youth. For break-out room topics, the conference schedule, and lodging information, check out NDE's conference page. Registration is open NOW, just click on the link below!

In person registration will close at noon on September 12th so that conference organizers have accurate information for meals that will be served. Virtual registrations will be open up to the day of the conference.

Register Before September 12!

**Calling All Nebraska Youth-Serving Professionals and Volunteers:
Take the Power of Us Workforce Survey Today!**



As you are getting prepared to join your colleagues at GetConnected 2022 in Kearney later this month, we encourage you to share your reflections on the state of Afterschool programming by participating in the Power of Us survey. Thousands of professionals and volunteers across Nebraska work with young people every day in the many settings where youth play, learn, and grow outside of the school day. On athletic fields, in afterschool programs, in libraries, in faith-based institutions, youth-serving professionals and volunteers are making a difference every day. Through the Power of Us Workforce Survey, Nebraska's youth-serving professionals and volunteers can contribute to a national effort to explore, define, and elevate youth fields workforce and their essential work with youth. If we know more about what drives you in this vital work, we can do more to support the youth fields workforce to thrive.

Take the survey now at <https://powerofussurvey.org/>

**Celebrate the 23rd Annual *Lights On Afterschool*
October 20, 2022!**



After you attend GetConnected and take the Power of Us survey, it is time to start thinking about Lights on Afterschool! Launched by the Afterschool Alliance in October 2000, *Lights On Afterschool*, is the only nationwide event celebrating afterschool programs and their important role in the lives of children, families and communities. The effort has become a hallmark of the afterschool movement and generates media coverage across the country each year.

Lights On Afterschool celebrations across Nebraska draw attention to the many ways afterschool programs support students by offering them opportunities to build friendships while they learn new things—such as science, community service, robotics, videography and entrepreneurship —and discover new passions and skills. The events send a powerful message that Nebraska youth benefit from these programs and more of our kids need quality learning opportunity outside of the school day.

The website, <http://www.afterschoolalliance.org/loa.cfm>, provides everything you need to organize your program's celebration. Whether you are a new program on an experienced one, you can find tons of ideas from event ideas, social media kits, advice from the pros, and more!

Nebraska ELO Highlights

Rabble Mill Good Living Camp



It truly was the Best Summer Ever in Halsey, Nebraska this August when Rabble Mill and 4H teamed up to create the Good Living Camp. BSB is proud to have supported the project to bring together high school students from across the state to build friendships, skate the rolling hills of camp, and explore STEM via a TMC lab - all immersed in Nebraska's natural beauty.

Students reflected on their experiences in nature as well as with their peers *“Being so close to nature isn't something I get to experience much, so it was really neat to see so much. I also met a lot of really neat people”*. Thank you to Rabble Mill, Nebraska 4H, and the many partners involved for creating this opportunity for Nebraska youth!

More to come on BSB's Best Summer Ever projects!

Resources & Curriculum

Million Girls Moonshot (MGM)



To help students see themselves with a future in STEM and to broaden understanding of science history, it is important for students to learn about a diverse range of scientists and engineers. In honor of [Hispanic Heritage Month](#), we've highlight a few of the Hispanic and Latinx scientists and engineers who made (and are making) important contributions to science, technology, engineering, and math (STEM).

Hispanic Heritage Month

[4 Read Alouds and STEM Challenges for Hispanic Heritage Month](#) - Hispanic Heritage Month is the perfect time to integrate STEM and literacy to help teach students about diversity in STEM and professional careers. Here are 4 of our favorite STEM Read Aloud activities and challenges for kids to use in your classroom during Hispanic Heritage Month!

[Space Place by NASA \(in Spanish\)](#) - Aims to inspire and enrich upper-elementary-aged youth's learning of space and Earth science through games, hands-on activities, informative articles, and videos. Includes resources for parents and educators.

[21 Scientists and engineers to learn more about!](#) For each scientist, we have included a short biographical summary, links to 1-2 hands-on science projects related to the scientist's area of study, and links to relevant science career profiles.

Free Professional Development Opportunities Through the Moonshot ACRES Training Cohort: [Facilitating Math Practices](#)

Dates: 2:00 PM - 4:00 PM EST on the following Wednesdays: 9/28/2022, 10/12/2022, 10/26/2022: Afterschool educators will explore & practice strategies for making math fun. *The expectation is that you will be live at all three sessions and an active member of this coaching cohort. Register: Use the code AC240MP

Click2Engineering Community of Practice

You will grow your understanding of engineering and increase your confidence and ability to lead engineering sessions with youth [SUBMIT AN INTEREST FORM](#)

Role Models Matters Training for STEM Volunteers

Ready to Train volunteers and role models in your Network, school, or afterschool program? [COMPLETE THIS REGISTRATION FORM](#) to gain access to the Role Models Matter Training developed by Techbridge Girls

TMC Spotlight

TMC Lab supporting programming in the Oglala Lakota Nation



Beyond School Bells partnered with the South Dakota Afterschool Network to provide three TMC Labs which travel across the state providing hands-on, minds-on activities for young people in a variety of non-traditional venues. We are thrilled to share one of their success stories.

The West River TMC Labs was on the move Saturday, August 7 for the Oglala Lakota Nation

Wacipi in Pine Ridge, South Dakota. This event included a parade, skateboarding competition, softball tournament, dancing, and our favorite, STEM activities with the kids. Thousands of people gathered on a beautiful Saturday where the parade led our procession to the powwow grounds. Upon arrival we set up one of the TMC Lab's pop up tables next to the skate park with a variety of hands-on activities for kids to explore.

A theme that emerged throughout the day was that natural curiosity and the absence of a need for control allowed these kids to process their world in a unique and beautiful way. As adults we often try to create schedules and itineraries, come up with contingency plans, and generally try to control the uncertainty in our world. Throughout the afternoon we watched children approach our table with a willingness to try new things and a natural desire to build community with us and one another through play and exploration. One telling example of this was with a young man who spent over fifteen minutes perfecting his model house. A gust of wind pushed his creation off the table and it all came crashing to the ground. His reaction gave us all a moment of pause, as he simply shrugged his shoulders and said "let's try again". While this example makes many of us appreciate his grit and determination to persevere, I was instead struck by this boy's resiliency in a moment of sudden change. Many other youth also helped instill an overarching sense of community through their interactions with one another and with us.

These visits with our TMC Lab help our organization understand the beautiful diversity present in our state and the kids we work with teach us valuable lessons that guide our work. To the children and all people of the Oglala Lakota Nation, we are so grateful to have spent the day with you, wopila.

– Jeff Sebern, Director of Programs, South Dakota Afterschool Network



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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