
Subject: Beyond School Bells Newsletter-July 2022

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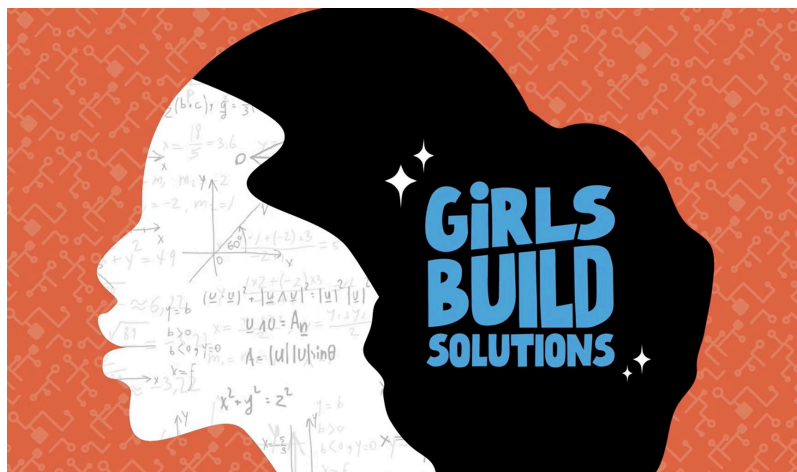
From: Beyond School Bells



July 2022

News & Policy

**Million Girls Moonshot / Girls Build Solutions Conference
Chicago, June 27 – 30**



A Nebraska team joined other afterschool and summer learning advocates from across the country for the first ever gathering of the Million Girl Moonshot initiative, a multi-state, multi-year project to enhance Science, Technology, Engineering and Math (STEM) learning for underserved communities coordinated by our partners at STEMNext.

This meeting was special for two reasons. First, it included the official launch of Flight Crew, a team of 16 impressive young women who will be working as youth ambassadors for STEM

learning in out-of-school time programs. We are proud to announce that [Amanda Gutierrez, a Lincoln native and Pius HS student](#), is a founding member of this select national group. Needless to say we were blown away by the energy, enthusiasm and passion for both STEM learning and sharing their insights with others that all the members of the Flight Crew exhibited.

Second, BSB was asked to bring one of our Think Make Create (TMC) Labs to the Chicago event to serve as an example of state level innovations supporting AS and Summer learning programs in underserved communities. With 75 TMC Labs in circulation across Nebraska, four other states, and now Taiwan (see below) the time was right to showcase this Nebraska born and bred tinkering and early making platform to our national partners. Needless to say, they were impressed and we anticipate continued national growth with the TMC Labs platform in the coming months and years.

The conference served to reinforce our commitment to this project and the opportunities it will provide to promote more engaged, high quality afterschool and summer programs across Nebraska.

TMC Taiwan



But why stop there? As noted above, we are excited to announce that our Think Make Create Labs have gone international! With the support of a generous grant from Micron USA and the on-the-ground project management of Hana McMahon-Cole, we took our existing TMC Lab and adapted it to the Taiwanese context, to create a platform for hands on minds on learning experiences. [See our blog to get a full story on TMC Taiwan](#). We anticipate using the TMC Taiwan to connect Nebraska youth to their counterparts half a world away – expanding their minds through expanded learning opportunities.

Funding Opportunities

BSB Family Engagement Mini-Grants



Beyond School Bells' Family Engagement grant applications are now open for both end-of-summer and fall! [Click here](#) to apply for the tier that best fits your program's needs - the grants are open to all Nebraska afterschool programs. The summer event application deadline is **July 18th**, and the fall grant application deadline is **September 1st**.

[Apply Now!](#)

Resources & Curriculum

MGM Resources



It was exactly 53 years ago astronauts Neil Armstrong and Edwin “Buzz” Aldrin made history when they became the first human beings to set foot on the moon. In July the Million Girls Moonshot commemorates that “giant leap” as it remains one of humanity’s greatest achievements. We look to the future, to the next generation of explorers, engineers and scientists to bring us to new frontiers, discoveries, and answers to the questions scientific inquiry raises today!

One scientist whose career is to help us find answers to some of those greatest mysteries is Dana Bolles, a Spaceflight Engineer and Advocate and featured IF/THEN ambassador this month. Dana currently works at NASA Headquarters communicating NASA’s exploration of life beyond Earth and advocating for people with disabilities and LGBT communities. Check out her [profile](#), [poster](#), and [life sketch](#).

Join a Community of Practice (COP)

Communities of practice (CoPs) are an excellent way for program staff to learn and grow with peers across the country on different topics of interest. Take a deeper dive into learning how to lead engineering sessions with youth in a [Click2Engineering CoP](#) or learn how to facilitate [Teen Science Cafes](#) (interest form due August 1st) at your program by participating in these two CoPs.

Additional MGM Resources

Here are some additional MGM materials afterschool programs can use to enrich staff PD, programming, and family engagement:

- **Webinar Recording:** [Incorporating STEM Role Models in Afterschool](#) with the National Girls Collaborative Project Team
- **Article:** [Black Girls Create: Developing a Culturally Responsive Maker Program for Black Girls](#) article describes the development and pilot implementation of a culturally responsive maker afterschool program for Black girls.
- **Book:** [Social Justice Reading For Kids : NPR](#)
- **Toolkit:** [Engaging Families in Mathematics Education](#)
- **Activity: Student Design Activity:** [NASA's Favorite House Plants for Space Stations and You - The Grow Network : The Grow Network](#)
- **Student Design Activity:** [Landing Humans on the Moon Educator Guide](#)

TMC Spotlight

Oakland-Craig, NE Bright Knights Afterschool Program



When we received our TMC lab in November of 2020, we knew we wanted to also serve kids outside of our school district. The pandemic slowed down our efforts, but we are back in full swing! We were able to take our TMC Lab to Camp Catch-Up, a program through Nebraska Children and Families Foundation in early June. Camp Catch-Up brings together siblings separated by foster care or adoption. These kids come to camp to spend quality time with their siblings they don't live with.

We knew we wanted to use the TMC Lab to help enhance sibling bonds so we needed to choose a project that would focus on teamwork and communication. We decided on an activity called “Family Cars.” Campers were able to use the engineering and design process to help them create a design and build a car out of junk. They used cardboard, duct tape, hot glue, paint and other random items such as pom poms, balloons, paper towel rolls, and more. Everything is always better when there is competition, so we made different awards for the following: best body style, best paint job, most creative, and best use of materials. Campers also were able to physically race their cars at the closing assembly.

It was amazing to see how campers were engaged and worked together with their siblings. Campers were really motivated by the outcome and many were able to take their car home with them. This is a project we plan to implement into our after school program.

– Alana Pearson, Oakland-Craig Bright Knights Afterschool Program Director



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