

North Dakota AFTERSCHOOL Update

ISSUE 17 OCTOBER 2015

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21st CCLC Afterschool Moving From STEM to STEAM

History

The 21st Century Community Learning Centers (CCLC) afterschool programs have been offering Science, Technology, Engineering, and Mathematics (STEM) activities over the past two grant cycles, covering eight years. Some programs have been offering STEM for even longer. The 21st CCLC state guidance requires that 65% of all activities offered fall into the following categories: STEM, math, and language arts. The 21st CCLC programs in North Dakota use multiple activities to implement STEM. The activities include offering robotics clubs, hands-on scientific experiments, using third-party vendors to purchase STEM kits and curriculum. Each sub-grantee provides STEM training to their staff at their annual meetings. The 21st CCLC summer conference invites many STEM vendors and presenters to help 21st CCLC staff with implementing STEM in their afterschool programs.

Future

The North Dakota Department of Public Instruction (NDDPI) STEM programming is administered within the Division of Student Support and Innovation by Beth Larson-Steckler, the department's Science, Technology, Engineering, Arts, and Mathematics (STEAM) Administrator. The STEM initiative has been changed to STEAM to incorporate the arts. In North Dakota, STEAM education is defined as an integrated curriculum (as opposed to science, technology, engineering, arts, and mathematics taught in isolation) that is driven by creative thinking, problem solving, discovery, exploratory project/problem-based learning, and student-centered development of ideas and solutions.

Josh Sharp

Program Administrator

21st Century Community Learning
Centers

600 E. Boulevard Ave. Dept. 201
Bismarck, ND 58505-0440

Phone: (701) 328-2285

Fax: (701) 328-0203

Email: jesharp@nd.gov

21st CCLC Afterschool Moving From STEM to STEAM, continued

Since the 21st CCLC program is also located in the Student Support & Innovation Division, these two programs will work together in the future on STEAM projects. Some of initiatives include collaborating with the North Dakota STEM Network and other partners to provide high quality professional development to assist our teachers, generating STEAM resources to be posted on the NDDPI website, and additional collaborative projects.

MOTT Partnership

The 21st CCLC office is working with afterschool professionals to develop an afterschool network to provide resources and create a system of support for all afterschool programs. The MOTT Foundation is dedicated to helping afterschool programs incorporate STEM into their programs. The MOTT Foundation assists afterschool programs by requiring all afterschool networks to designate a STEM representative and hosting a STEM summit in Washington, D.C.



STEAM in AFTERSCHOOL

Last spring at the North Dakota STEM Network Conference in Fargo, Jolene Hermanson (Grafton Middle School STEM Teacher) and Lori Zahradka (21st CCLC program director North



Valley Career & Technology Center), connected with Aaron Bergstrom (HPC/ Citizen Science Specialist, Computational Research Center, UND Citizen Science Grid, ND EPSCoR) where he offered to teach supercomputing at Grafton if we were able to supply fourteen Raspberry Pi's (Jolene happened to have a box of ten in her classroom that were unopened so we had a good start!).



On September 29, 18 students in grades 6-12 at Grafton were fully engaged in the afterschool Raspberry Pi Citizen Science Workshop. Three computer science researchers from UND (including Aaron) worked with the students as they learned to install a Linux operating system on the Raspberry Pi, basics of Linux command-line input, how to install software libraries from the command-line, and much more! Additionally, it was a nice way to build support for the afterschool robotics club as the science teacher robotics coach always says the students struggle with programming. You can find more information on Raspberry Pi at the following link: www.raspberrypi.org/help/what-is-a-raspberry-pi/ .

STEAM in AFTERSCHOOL, continued



North Dakota State Program Administrator Updates

New Sub-Grantee

The NDDPI would like to congratulate Cheney Middle School in West Fargo for writing a successful 21st CCLC grant application. On October 20, 2015, the 21st CCLC state coordinator met with representatives of the Cheney 21st CCLC program to provide on-board training.

21st CCLC State Sponsored Travel

The state 21st CCLC office sponsors representatives from each sub-grantee to attend national conferences for professional development. A memo was sent to the field outlining a new policy. The state will sponsor one representative from each sub-grantee to attend a national afterschool conference of their choosing.

21st CCLC and Reauthorization

There has not been a lot of movement on reauthorization. As of now, both the House and Senate have passed their respective bills. They are now working on forming the committee that will meet and finalize the bill that will be sent to the President's desk. The bills are quite different, so we will have to wait and see what the final bill looks like. It is important to remember that the President has stated he will not sign a bill that does not have bipartisan support. The bill from the Senate, which includes 21st CCLC, has bipartisan support. The House bill was passed on party lines and removes 21st CCLC, among other programs. You can follow all the reauthorization buzz on the National Afterschool Alliance website at www.afterschoolalliance.org/. The Division of Student Support & Innovation also puts out a *Weekly Blast* or as needed providing updates on reauthorization. You can find the *Weekly Blast* on the NDDPI website at www.nd.gov/dpi/Administrators/FTP/Resources/News_Pubs/

Mott Partnership Grant

The Mott Afterschool Network Leadership Team has been meeting monthly. The next meeting will be on November 17, 2015 in Jamestown, ND. This meeting will be very important as it will define the mission of our Mott Partnership Grant.

Continuing Application

All sub-grantees have successfully completed their continuing applications and the NDDPI is in the process of issuing their continuing grant awards.

Things to Watch For

- Updated Fast Facts
- Re-Authorization Updates