



NEBRASKA

# Community Learning Center Network

**October 2008  
E-BLAST**

[www.NebraskaCLCNetwork.org](http://www.NebraskaCLCNetwork.org)

Growing successful students, engaged families, stronger communities

## Outreach Event Wrap-Up

On September 25th, the Nebraska CLC Network hosted an outreach event in Lincoln where recent research and areas of emerging opportunities were discussed with over 40 diverse stakeholders representing state government, community organizations, service providers, and private and philanthropic partners.

In addition to the summary that follows in this e-blast, we will have information about these research projects available on our website under **community resources**. Please let us know if you would like any additional information about the event.

## Let us hear from you . . .

If you haven't already done so, please visit our web site and take a couple of moments to fill out a **Partner Form**.

This is our way of getting to know you and your interests so that we can serve you better.

As always, feel free to contact us with your questions, comments or other feedback. Direct your emails to Jeff Cole at: [jcole@nebraskachildren.org](mailto:jcole@nebraskachildren.org).

[www.NebraskaChildren.org](http://www.NebraskaChildren.org)



## Don't Forget: Lights On After-School Celebration

*By Dayna Krannawitter  
Nebraska Afterschool Alliance Ambassador*

This year's campaign will be held on October 16, marking the ninth annual Lights On Afterschool rally. More than 7,500 communities and a million Americans are expected to participate across the country to draw attention to the need for more quality afterschool programs. Governor Dave Heineman has declared October 16th Lights On Afterschool Day in Nebraska. Download a copy of the Governor's Proclamation for use at your event at the Nebraska CLC Network website at [www.nebraskaclcnetwork.org/includes/downloads/lightson.pdf](http://www.nebraskaclcnetwork.org/includes/downloads/lightson.pdf).

Afterschool programs across Nebraska will be hosting events and activities that will shine the light on the importance of afterschool programs. Students are becoming artists, writers, storytellers, scientists, musicians, runners, gymnasts, and community leaders during the afterschool hours. I see every day the positive impact that afterschool programs make in the lives of young people through their smiles as they figure out a tough math problem, their cheers as their team pulls ahead in "Water Olympics," and their willingness to help clean up a milk spill during snack time. It is important for all of us to share these and other stories of Nebraska's afterschool programs with our policy makers and the public in order to continue the support and funding that is so desperately needed.

It's not too late to celebrate Lights On Afterschool in your community! If you need some last minute ideas about how you can enliven your event, visit [www.afterschoolalliance.org](http://www.afterschoolalliance.org). You can also contact me, Nebraska's Afterschool Ambassador, at: [daynak@L-housing.com](mailto:daynak@L-housing.com).

# Outreach Event Wrap-Up

## Recent Research

Following welcoming remarks by First Lady Sally Ganem, two recent Network-commissioned research projects were discussed: Elements of Quality, a literature review of characteristics in successful afterschool programs; and a draft Fund Mapping report, a working document tracking the flow of federal and state level funds supporting expanded learning opportunities. The Powerpoint presentation reviewing the Elements of Quality report, the draft Fund Mapping report and its corresponding Fact Sheets can be found on our website under Program Enhancement Tools.

The draft **Fund Mapping report**, developed in partnership with the University of Nebraska's Public Policy Center, will be used as a starting point in conversations with an array of partners to discuss how existing funding can be better coordinated to support our goal of providing more high quality afterschool programs. This draft report, which contains a detailed table of federal funding opportunities, can also help school community partnerships think about how to diversify sources of funding.

The Nebraska Center for Research on Children, Youth, Families and Schools, the Network's partner, is currently finishing the final Elements of Quality research report which will include an extensive data base of primary source literature on various elements of quality programs. Once completed, the entire report will be posted on our website. We encourage you to use this important information when advocating for and building quality afterschool programs in your communities.

## New Opportunities

In addition to these new research tools, the meeting also included discussions on several emerging opportunities for afterschool programs. Lisa St. Clair, the Director of the Nebraska Parental Information Resource Center (PIRC), spoke of the vital role that families play in a child's education and encouraged participants to think about making their afterschool environment more parent and adult friendly. Useful examples and ideas about how you can build in meaningful parent engagement activities into your program, visit the Nebraska PIRC website at [www.NebraskaPIRC.org](http://www.NebraskaPIRC.org).

The Network also announced our participation in a new 14 month initiative to look at how to better coordinate Early Care and Afterschool system building efforts. Supported by the C S Mott Foundation, this initiative includes teams from Wyoming, Kansas, New York and Massachusetts, and will provide meaningful opportunities for advocates from the afterschool and early childhood care and education worlds to think about how our emerging systems can be better integrated to better serve the needs of Nebraska's children and families throughout their lives.

## Sustainability Training

And finally, a word about a new Network training initiative. Starting this fall, the Network will begin working with school-community partnerships interested in developing sustainability plans for their programs. The objective of this work is to generate material that advocates can use in their communities or in grant applications to make a systematic, comprehensive case for securing needed resources for afterschool programs that reflects their community's unique goals and vision.

We are currently developing a four-month planning process to help community teams. This training will combine two day-long group sessions with extensive community outreach and information gathering modules that can be completed with other stakeholders in their communities. Participating teams will be provided technical assistance and will have access to additional sustainability tools on a secured user portion of our website.

Over the next month we will be building out the resources of the Sustainability Training section of our site and are planning on making this a focal point of our work. If you think that your school-community partnership might be interested in participating in this training at a future date please contact me at [jcole@nebraskachildren.org](mailto:jcole@nebraskachildren.org) or visit the Sustainability Tools section of our website.