



NEBRASKA

Community Learning Center Network

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E-Blast

www.NebraskaCLCNetwork.org

Growing successful students, engaged families, stronger communities

Special Tucson Winter Edition

This Newsletter is coming to you from the Statewide Afterschool Network meeting in Tucson. Nebraska is well represented at this meeting, with First Lady Sally Ganem, Commissioner of Education Doug Christensen, Nebraska Children and Families Foundation Executive Director Mary Jo Pankoke, Omaha Mayor Fahey's afterschool coordinator Nicole Schaefer and Omaha Middle School Learning Center co-director Megan Addison accompanying me (and presenting) at this four day event. The conference is a fantastic opportunity for us to learn what other states are doing to build support for afterschool programs in their states and bring some of those ideas back home to Nebraska.

New Network Website Officially Launched

The network's new website (www.NebraskaCLCNetwork.org) was officially launched this month. We will be adding much additional information over the coming months, including special sections with material that you can use to help build the case for programs in your community and to develop local sustainability plans. We encourage you to take a look at the evolving site, but ask you to remember that it is a work in progress. We are interested in hearing your feedback.

Governor's Summit on Extended Learning Opportunities

Governor Heineman hosted an all day Governor's Summit on Expanded Learning Opportunities on Wednesday, January 23rd. The summit focused on opportunities to better integrate emerging initiatives in afterschool, parental involvement, and early childhood education and featured several panel discussions covering issues ranging from the statewide policy environment, value of expanded learning opportunities and profiles of programs in Sidney, Lincoln, Omaha and Fremont.

The keynote presentation was provided by Dr. Heather Weiss, founder and director of the Harvard Family Research Project. Dr. Weiss' presentation focused on the concept of complementary learning and she challenged the summit participants to think about how to better connect schools to the world of community and family resources that support school-based learning as a strategy to improve outcomes for all student. More information on the complementary learning approach, and the Harvard Family Research Project, can be found at <http://www.gse.harvard.edu/hfrp/projects/complementary-learning.html>.

Governor Heineman, who attended the full day of activities along with First Lady Sally Ganem, used the occasion of the summit to declare the week of January 21 – 25th **Expanded Learning Opportunities Week**. The Network developed a briefing binder for this summit that contains information that you might find useful in your communities as you build your own case for local support. This material, as well as links to a Omaha World Herald story on the summit, can be downloaded from our new website at www.NebraskaCLCNetwork.org.

Also at the Capitol . . .

CLC Awareness Week materials have been on display in the Capitol rotunda this week. We assembled materials covering local, statewide and national initiatives in the CLC world. This year we had additional materials looking at the role of parental engagement, including a presentation table for the State PTA which focused on the value of community schools for encouraging parental engagement.