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## Spotlight on Hispanic Heritage Month, National Coding Week, Back to Afterschool, and More!

1 message

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NEW YORK STATE  
NETWORK FOR  
YOUTH SUCCESS

### Network Newsletter | September 7, 2022

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## Spotlight: Hispanic Heritage Month

Hispanic Heritage Month (September 15 to October 15) begins next week, and it's the perfect time to integrate STEM and other learning resources to teach students about diversity in professional careers. The Million Girls Moonshot has provided several resources to help you incorporate STEM, literacy, and more into your programs this month as you celebrate and learn about Hispanic Heritage.



### Hispanic Heritage Month Resources:

- [21 Scientists and engineers to learn more about!](#)—Encourage youth to learn more about these scientists and to explore related science projects and careers for scientists they find interesting. For each scientist, they 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.
- [Celebrating Latinx Scientists and Their Work: Resources for your Afterschool Program](#)—National Hispanic Heritage Month offers a great opportunity for students to learn about the many Latinx contributions to STEM. During this month—and all year—you can use the groundbreaking discoveries of Latinx scientists as the foundation for STEM learning activities.
- [4 Read Alouds and STEM Challenges for Hispanic Heritage Month](#)—Here are 4 STEM Read Aloud activities and challenges for kids to use in your program during Hispanic

Heritage Month.

- [Latina Girls Code](#)—This program (serving girls ages 7–17) was created to fill the STEM diversity gap. It provides education and resources, including mentors, access to hardware and digital tools, internships, and various programs and events throughout the year.
- [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.

For more resources and activities to learn about Hispanic Heritage Month, visit the Network for Youth Success [Facebook page](#).

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#### **Program Spotlight**

Want to be featured on Facebook or our enews?

Fill out the personal/program form to tell us about the great things you or your program are doing.

[Personal Spotlight](#) | [Program Spotlight](#)

## National Coding Week



National Coding Week (September 19 – 23, 2022) is a time to celebrate and promote tech skills and tech education in afterschool.

Check out #NationalCodingWeek to see what others are sharing about how learning new digital skills has helped themselves, helped others, or helped society.

Are you looking for resources to inspire young people to learn coding skills and highlight the importance of tech? The NAA website provides resources and activities to incorporate coding into your programs:

[NAA Coding resources](#)

[8 ways to celebrate National coding week](#)

## Brief: Access to Afterschool Programs Remains a Challenge for Many Families

Afterschool programs are in high demand, but barriers to access continue to hinder enrollment.

The Afterschool Alliance brief, “Access to Afterschool Programs Remains a Challenge for Many Families,” outlines the barriers for families accessing afterschool programs.

This brief is based on a survey conducted between May 12–June 28 that collected responses from nearly 1,500 parents or guardians of school-age children. The brief had four major takeaways about these challenges and parent/guardian motivations for wanting to enroll their child in a program:

- Cost is the top barrier to afterschool program participation, with 57% of families reporting that afterschool is too expensive to enroll their children.
- Unmet demand for afterschool programs remains high during the pandemic.

- For children who were able to access afterschool programs during the pandemic, these programs kept them safe, connected, and engaged in learning.
- Parents/guardians agree that afterschool programs are providing critical support to children and families.

To read the full brief, [\*\*click here\*\*](#).

## Welcome Back to Afterschool 2022: Five Big Ideas to Spark Family Engagement in STEM



STEM can spark a curiosity in children that inspires a lasting love of learning. Interest may come from a hands-on science investigation, a role model who codes for good causes, or words of encouragement from a teacher or afterschool instructor. Learn about five ideas to spark family engagement in your program and community.

Here are Five Big Ideas from STEM Next to spark family engagement in your program and community:

1. **Relationships first and foremost.** Get to know families before jumping into planning STEM activities this school year. Parents and guardians know their child and have insights that can help inform afterschool staff. Start this year off building relationships with home visits, calls home, welcome back notes, text messages, and conversations during pick up and drop off.
2. **Think outside the box.** STEM is showing up in new ways and in new places. Imagine family engagement that broadens participation. Kids and families can show up and play and tinker with electronics, crafting supplies, textiles, paints, arts, STEM manipulatives, cardboard, and recyclables.
3. **Build caregivers' confidence and capacity to encourage their children.** Encouragement is their superpower. Instead of proposing activities that add to their workload and anxieties, show caregivers how to integrate STEM into their everyday routines and tap into their existing knowledge and skills about STEM.
4. **Lead with humility. Listen, learn, and try, try again.** Ask for input on elements of your afterschool programs that may help increase diversity and inclusion. Let caregivers know why you are asking for their ideas. You can't do everything for all families, but you can prioritize engagement with those who have been underserved in the past (e.g., children with disabilities) and families who didn't engage as much as you hoped. Let them know you want to support them and ask about barriers that may have precluded their engagement.
5. **Invest in family engagement.** Invest in professional development. Family engagement and professional development are critical to closing the opportunity gap in STEM. Check out STEM Next for resources that provide opportunities for reflecting, sharing strategies and resources, and creating an action plan with partners for greater collective impact.

To read the full article, [\*\*click here\*\*](#).

Interested in advancing in the school-age field?

Need the qualifications to become a Site Director?

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## Network for Youth Success Events

### Sept 7: LGBTQIA 101: Understanding Gender and Attraction (7-8:30 PM)

An interactive [re]introduction to terminology and key concepts related to sexual orientation and gender identity expression. This session serves the foundation necessary for exploring the skills, practices, policies, and NYS laws in the upcoming LGBTQIA sessions. *Individuals wishing to attend other sessions from the facilitator must first attend this session.*



[Click here](#) to register.

*LGBTQIA 101 is part of the JEDI (justice, equity, diversity, inclusion) training series. JEDI creates better outcomes for youth. When you participate in JEDI trainings, you will be equipped to send youth out into a world feeling seen, valued, and appreciated for who they are. For more information on the Network's JEDI trainings, [click here](#).*

### Sept. 7 & 13: Names and Pronouns: Making Mistakes and Getting it Right

Adjusting to a youth's new name? Struggling with they/them pronouns? Wondering what to do when the family isn't on board? This session provides attendees with tips, tools, and NYS laws applicable to communicating with and about youth and staff who are trans and/or nonbinary.

Two sessions are being offered.

Sept 7; 10:30- 11:30 am

Sept 13; 6:00pm - 7:00pm

*Prerequisite: LGBTQIA 101*

### Sept 19: Systems Update: Enhancing Documents and E-Forms to Better Serve LGBTQIA Youth and Families (6-7 PM)

Noticing that your electronic and paper forms don't give all the information your staff need, or that they don't work for all of your families? Geared towards directors and other leadership, this interactive session provides practical examples for adjusting forms and for how to work around 3rd-party systems. Bring your forms to help us work through real examples!

*Prerequisite: Attendance of Names & Pronouns session encouraged. LGBTQIA 101 required.*

[\*\*Click here\*\*](#) to register.

**Check the Network for Youth Success [events page](#) anytime for a current listing of upcoming events.**

## Other Events

### Sept. 29: Leveraging Collective Impact to Support STEM Programs and Resources (webinar; 3 PM)

In this webinar, learn how the National Girls Collaborative Project (NGCP) and other organizations leverage collective impact in order to provide the opportunity for programs to increase their ability to maintain interest and participation of girls in STEM through collaboration. Hear from a dynamic panel of speakers on strategies for successful STEM collaborations and how to nurture and scale effective STEM learning opportunities for all young people.



National Girls  
Collaborative Project

[\*\*Click here\*\*](#) to register.

### Oct. 13: Addressing STEM Stereotypes with Youth and Young Adults (webinar; 2 PM)

This webinar, the first of a two-webinar series, will dig deeply into research and best practices related to addressing STEM stereotypes with older youth and young adults. Researchers and educators will share strategies and resources to counter and break down STEM stereotypes. Speakers include: Claudia Fracchiolla, American Physical Society (APS), Michelle Higgins, The University of Arizona, Corinne Okada Takara, Bioartist and STEAM Educator.

[\*\*Click here\*\*](#) to join webinar.

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