Cerebro is a national Spanish/English informal education project providing culturally competent programming and media resources about the brain’s structure and function to Hispanic middle school students and their families. All the programming, as well as materials, are provided in Spanish at no cost to the kids or families and are facilitated by informal educators from within the community.

Previously, OregonASK has worked with Farmerworker’s Housing Development Corporation in Independence, Oregon to implement a 2-week long Summer camp at their Independence housing site. Before starting the program, a welcome family event is hosted to help inform families what will be covered in the program, provide time for families to ask questions, and provide materials to families that expand on the learning happening in the program. Cerebro is broken into four modules that include 1. brain structure, 2. brain connection, 3. brain in action, and 4. brain and behavior. After all the modules have been completed a family fiesta brings everyone together to celebrate the completion of the program, hear youth present their final projects, and survey families on their experience with Cerebro.

**CEREBRO GOALS**

- Empower informal STEM educators to provide culturally responsive hands-on activities about the brain’s structure and function to Latinx youth and families
- Increase knowledge of diverse neuroscience-related career options and encourage Latinx youth to consider them as viable and exciting careers paths
- Increase awareness about brain illnesses (Alzheimer’s disease, depression, and epilepsy) building mental health awareness, thus increasing help-seeking behavior.

**TIMELINE**

**May 2021**

- Online Webinar Training for STEM Educators
- Promotion of Program

**June - July 2021**

**Week 1**

- Welcome Event with Families

**Week 2**

- Module 1- Brain Structure
- Module 2- Brain Connection

**Week 3**

- Module 3-Brain in Action
- Module 4- Brain and Behavior
- Family Fiesta & Evaluation
Providers, organizations, and agencies interested in the field of afterschool look to OregonASK to answer questions and keep them informed about local, state, and national issues, including legislation that impacts children, youth, and families in our communities. Our work is centered on educating policy makers through research, tools, strategies, and partnerships with many organizations throughout the state. We educate the community about ways that afterschool & summer programs keep kids safe, inspire learning and help working families. We work directly with providers, public administrators, and elected officials to create policies that support the work of afterschool programs, professional, and youth in Oregon.

**PARTNERSHIPS**

As Partners in the network, organizations have opportunities to connect with other professionals from out-of-school time programs, find new local, state or national partners, have access to affordable professional development and program resources, and take advantage of unified messaging to raise the voice of afterschool & summer learning in Oregon. As a collaborative, we align our work with partners from outside the world of education, such as government and business, to make us as efficient and impactful as possible. Participation in the statewide afterschool network helps programs increase connections and credibility as they connect to the National Network, statewide agencies, and local champions.

**POLICY**

OregonASK recognizes the crucial link between what youth experience in afterschool and summer programs and the skills and knowledge of the program staff who work with them. To keep improving the overall quality of afterschool & summer programs in Oregon, our direct training opportunities serve hundreds annually, and develop the professional development infrastructure for all out-of-school time providers in the state. OregonASK believes that quality afterschool programs are critical for providing every youth with equitable, enriching experiences that support their growth and learning opportunities.

**PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT**

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**DEFINING QUALITY**

- Inspiring Student Dreams
- Providing Professional Development
- Engaging Parents & Families
- Building Systems & Structures
- Increasing School & Community Partnerships