

OREGONASK PROJECT UPDATE, JUNE 2022

PARTNERSHIP

OregonASK Partner Meeting

OregonASK will be asking partners the best way to continue connecting and growing as we move forward. We look forward to staying connected online but also offering several in-person opportunities to meet new faces and to catch up with one another. We see what a vital role we play in sharing updates, gathering feedback, and to facilitate building relationships among partners. If you are new to OregonASK, [click here](#) to read more about our work.

Summer Superstar and After School Hero Awards

OregonASK celebrated Afterschool Professional Appreciation Week this year by selecting five winners for our Summer Superstar and Afterschool Hero awards! The nominees were recognized for going above and beyond in supporting the youth and families they serve, and for being passionate and dedicated professionals in expanded learning. The winners received a small gift card and training credit to support ongoing professional learning. Check out the full list of award recipients and honorable mentions [here](#). On behalf of OregonASK, congratulations to all of the winners and nominees, thank you for everything you do as professionals in Afterschool and Summer!

Equitable STEM & CTE Committee

Over the last 8 years, OregonASK has broadened our connection and commitment to equitable STEAM opportunities, rooted in our convening of the Oregon Girls Collaborative. Now, our equitable STEM & CTE committee has been able to share insightful guidance in goals, outreach and implementation that keep equity at the forefront. This work is centralized around our goals to align Million Girls Moonshot, Entrepreneurship, and our own commitments to equity through quality.

Career Connections

OregonASK was pleased to continue our work aligned with workforce preparedness through participation in Career Connected Learning design and strategic planning teams. We see great opportunity for partnership and alignment as career-connected learning efforts statewide recognize the important role afterschool and summer play in youth pathways.

Entrepreneurship Opportunity Grant

Partnering with VentureLab, OregonASK recruited 5 programs to participate as pilot sites for an Idea to Pitch entrepreneurship based summer programming. We hope to see how this pilot helps youth build and demonstrate confidence and essential skills.

Supporting STEM Partners

Day One Tech PDX

OregonASK helped Day One Tech PDX (DOTPDX) apply for and fiscally manage COVID-relief funds in order to provide relief and recovery services directly to youth and families in East County. DOTPDX has continued to grow partnerships to expand services and coordination of summer programming. Contact Founder [Benjamin Lostheart](#) with questions or inquiries.

North East STEAM Coalition

OregonASK participates in Policy and Data subcommittees that aim to increase systems level efforts for engaging and inspiring underserved youth of Northeast Portland. NESC is hard at work preparing for a busy summer and growing their makerspace. Contact director [Wade Hopkins](#) with questions.

East Metro STEAM Partnership (EMSP)

As a state funded STEM Hub, support community wide STEM learning for K-12. For more information about EMSP action teams or youth advisory council,, you may contact the EMSP Director, Jarvez Hall, jhall@mesd.k12.or.us.

Healthy Schools CDC Grant

Partnering with Oregon Department of Education, OregonASK is working alongside statewide partners to support the Oregon Healthy Schools initiative funded by the CDC. This is a 5 year grant that focuses on the whole school, whole community, whole child model (WSCC). OregonASK aims to include out-of-school time partners and increase the health of Oregon's youth through collaborative community efforts. Find out more about [Oregon Healthy Schools HERE](#).

POLICY

[CLICK HERE](#) to see Oregon specific reports, such as our Summer 2021 and Return on Investment

Summer Community Grant

In 2022, the Oregon State Legislature committed \$50 million for summer learning programs to be provided to community-based organizations across the state through grants administered by the Oregon Association of Education Service Districts (OAESD). You can find the [Summer Community Grant HERE](#). The focus of these grants is to prioritize those students experiencing disabilities and other student communities who have been historically underserved. Recipients of these grant funds are encouraged to use these funds to reduce or remove barriers to student participation for these groups. These funds are designed to continue the equity work started in 2021 and continue to mitigate the impacts of the pandemic on those student communities most affected. View the [RFP HERE](#). The application can be accessed directly on [Google Forms HERE](#). Final updates to requirements are still being worked out and completed applications but are anticipating review and award within the next several weeks. The last day to claim funds from this grant will be September 30, 2022.

Commitment to Quality

Several years ago, Oregon launched our *This Is Afterschool* video series, to highlight programs who are continually demonstrating a commitment to one of the core quality components we are working to support. This work continues to elevate the importance of quality and better understand how OregonASK and our partners can best support quality implementation in this current environment.

Quality Committee

OregonASK convened a small team of partners this spring to discuss a variety of topics within building Quality Systems. Discussions included specific school age competencies, their alignment with the school age rules and national standards, as well as, what kind of infrastructure it would take to support implementation of such quality systems. We reviewed components for new and evolving afterschool programs such as employee and family handbooks, health and safety resources, and asynchronous training topics to support all youth professionals.

We will move forward updating OregonASK's Afterschool & Summer Core Competencies, prioritizing youth professional training needs, and providing resources that support the larger development of quality systems for Oregon's afterschool and summer programs. Our next quality committee meeting is tentatively set for **June 23rd, 9-10:30am**, all are welcome. If you are interested in becoming a part of our quality committee to share your feedback and expertise, please email Stephanie Balke at stephanie.balke@oregonask.org.

School Age Child Care Rules

The Early Learning Division hosted a group of 10-15 providers from around the state to participate in shaping and developing rule language to carry out implementation of the school age rule set to positively impact school-age child care programs across Oregon. School Age Rules have now been posted for review for the month of June. You may [find out more HERE](#).

PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT

View all [Upcoming Training Opportunities](#)

OregonASK Online

Our new training management system has finally launched! OregonASK online allows us to share virtual synchronous and asynchronous training with programs across the state! We are very excited to be able to offer more on demand training to meet the needs of the continuously changing field. Access it on our website at oregonask.org to experience our new and improved training platform.

Training in Spanish Online and In Person

This spring we provided training in Spanish on Family & Mentor Relationships, online in March and at the Bridges to the Future Conference 2022. OregonASK is happy to participate in regional efforts supported by child care resource and referral agencies that we can help provide school age training for caregivers, early learning and elementary professionals. Our OregonASK trainers were responsible for facilitating engaging workshops and providing strategies and resources that support whole child well being to providers from all communities around Oregon.

Inclusion Base Camp

Registration is open for our Inclusion Base Camp Cohort happening in July. This cohort is focused on providing an opportunity for expanded learning program staff to build confidence and capacity to successfully and meaningfully include children and youth with disabilities or additional needs. In this virtual six-session cohort, participants will create a cohesive vision of inclusion and behavior support, enhance their understanding of general behavior challenges, identify supports and resources available, explore inclusive best practices and necessary supports for youth with more complex inclusion needs using a strength-based approach, and dive into methods to foster positive family relationships and communication to support inclusion. [Sign up Here](#) or [CLICK HERE to read Inclusion Base Camp](#) participant requirements, scholarship eligibility, and session descriptions.

Innovative Summer Incubators

Possible Futures Summer Cohort

This summer we will be supporting programs to utilize Possible Futures, incorporating hands-on activities that explore 21st century skills, reinforce a growth mindset, and increase communications skills through a lens to the future. Participating programs will receive the curriculum for Possible Futures, facilitator notes, handouts, resources list, and PPT slides. Find out more about Expanding Possible Futures summer incubators and [fill out](#) this form to join.

Collaborative Service through Process-Based Art

CoLab is a course of programming that leads youth through the exploration of process-based art as they share their voices and ideas with their community. OregonASK worked with several pilot sites this spring and has another group starting this summer. Contact Rachel.Kessler@oregonask.org if interested in joining or if you have any questions.

Open Minds, Open Spaces Multi-State Conference

Save the date to join our virtual conference next fall, November 17 & 18!

Springing into Summer Series

OregonASK hosted trainings throughout April and May, providing STEM, entrepreneurship, youth engagement, and well-being focused sessions utilizing national and state partners. All of the trainings provided were at no cost thanks to funding from STEM Next, CS Mott Foundation, National Youth Leadership Council, and Oregon Healthy Schools CDC grant. A big thank you to all of the presenters and participants!