

## Project Update, March 2017

### Quality

#### Trainings and Technical Assistance

- In 2016, OregonASK trained 303 people from 66 organizations around Oregon. These trainings represent 234.5 training hours, all of which are aligned to the Oregon Registry.
- As an official training partner for Code.org, OregonASK has trained 107 educators trained to date, including informal educators, school-day teachers, and librarians.
- OregonASK is partnering with the California Academy of Sciences to bring the Science Action Club Pilot to Oregon. The pilot features an all new citizen science curriculum and kit created by the California Academy of Sciences. Middle School youth in participating programs will explore lessons in environmental science as it applies to birds, observe birds in their area, and share their findings with scientists in the field. Supply Kits and lesson plans of a \$500 value are provided to participating programs, along with free training. We're currently working with 9 site who are implementing the pilot.

#### Curriculum and Quality Standards

- OregonASK is currently completing the curriculum for Gilbert House's Invention Summer Camp. It includes seven weeks of invention activities, hands-on engineering design challenges, and much more. Each week will focus on a theme from the Gilbert House permanent exhibitions, such as Flying Machines, Shelters and Structures, and Veterinary Science.
- OregonASK's updated Quality Standards for Afterschool and Summer Programs are already in use! We are working with Salem-Keizer Education Foundation to provide program evaluation for their sites. Visit our website at [www.oregonask.org/quality-tools](http://www.oregonask.org/quality-tools) to find out more about our standards.
  - A companion document for staff, Oregon's Core Competencies for Afterschool and Summer Program Staff, has been drafted and will soon be available

### STEM

#### Digital Badges

- OregonASK is in the process of developing a system that will offer digital badges to everyone who attends our trainings. Stay tuned for updates on the system in the coming months!
- OregonASK has been selected to pilot the National Afterschool Association's STEM Micro-credential. The pilot is in Phase III. OregonASK Master Trainers have been certified by Click2Science PD as Coach/Trainers and will lead a small group of afterschool professionals through professional development and coaching in a specific STEM teaching skill. When staff complete the process and demonstrate their competency, they receive a digital badge and a STEM micro-credential in that particular STEM teaching skill. When the project moves out of the pilot phase in the coming years, afterschool professionals will have opportunities to earn micro-credentials that are stackable into credentials that can eventually stack into a master credential for leading informal STEM activities in afterschool.

#### Common Instrument - PEAR Institute

- OregonASK partnered with the PEAR Institute at Harvard to bring the Common Instrument survey tool to Oregon. The Common Instrument is a comprehensive survey that assess child and adolescent interest and engagement in science, and can demonstrate changes in interest and engagement over time. Working closely with PEAR, OregonASK finished up administering the survey to 150 students at 15 program sites across Oregon. A flyer about the research is available on the back table.

#### Family Engineering Nights

- OregonASK is excited to be partnering with the Portland Council PTA to bring Family Engineering Nights to six elementary schools around Portland. PTA volunteers were trained on January 26, and successful events took place throughout February and March. The events engaged hundreds of students and families in fun engineering activities. We will present our project results at the Oregon PTA convention in April.

## Health and Wellness

- OregonASK is preparing to submit a grant proposal to Voices for Healthy Kids to support the creation of systems for alignment with HEPA (Healthy Eating & Physical Activity) standards and programs self-assessment Stay tuned for more information soon!
- We are currently developing a Training of Trainers based on the CATCH Kids Club curriculum. CATCH (Coordinated Approach to Child Health) curriculum contains nutrition and fitness activities for afterschool programs.

## Equity

### Equity and Access Survey

- Our VISTA, Juan Soto, is currently drafting questions for our Equity and Access survey, and will be seeking feedback from research and equity experts. Look for more information soon-- we will be implementing the survey April - June!

### Black Male Achievement

- Juan will focus on tapping into black student, parent and teacher voices in order to be more effective in advocating on their behalf. He has begun meeting with members of BMA Education Subcommittee and getting their input/ feedback on next steps and the best way to reach out to students, parents, and teachers.

## Summer

### Summer Learning House Education Work Group

- The Work Group is busy pulling together a report titled Smart Summers. It will present issues around summer learning and summarize the accomplishments of the workgroup. The report will be released on April 12 during our *Integrating Summer, STEM, and ESSA* webinar. Visit our website to learn more about the webinar.

### SL3: Summer Learning, Summer Library, Summer Lunch

- OregonASK is gearing up to launch a sixth year of SL3 this summer, which will be coordinated by our new Health and Wellness VISTA. Stay tuned for updates.

## Policy

### Overdeck STEM Policy Grant

- An opportunity offered through the Afterschool Alliance and the Overdeck Foundation has allowed us to apply for a grant to support our STEM policy work, specifically targeting the inclusion of afterschool STEM into legislation. We have partnered with the Chief Education Office and the Department of Education to convene a STEM ESSA Workgroup. The Workgroup met four times November through February, and produced recommendations for the inclusion of informal STEM education in Oregon's ESSA plan. A report on the outcomes of the group is completed, and will be released on Monday, April 3. Plus we'll be hosting regional ESSA conversations around the state in the Spring.

### Other Policy Work

- OregonASK Master Trainer Susan Hamann has been added to the Spark Ad Hoc Committee of the Early Learning Council to advise the QRIS revision process.
- Executive Director Beth Unverzagt is leading a PLC with the National Center for Afterschool and Summer Enrichment (NCASE) called Creating a Successful Formula to Engage School-Age Programs in Quality Improvement Systems. Our Oregon team includes reps from school age programs, the Early Learning Division, and 21st Century Community Learning Centers.

OregonASK is hosting a series of webinars this spring about federal policy surrounding the Every Student Succeeds Act (ESSA) and 21CCLC. Join us for these conversations if you can, or visit our website to view recordings afterwards.

**Presidential Budget for 2018- 21CCLC Funding Cut | April 11th 10:00-11:00 PST:** Join us to discuss what the proposed funding cut to 21CCLC means to afterschool professionals, and how we can come together to advocate for the importance of these programs

**Integrating Summer, STEM & ESSA | April 12th 10:00-11:00 PST:** Join OregonASK and the National Summer Learning Association as we talk about utilizing summer STEM opportunities as a tool for ESSA implementation. And here the most up-to-date info on the policy implications from the state and national level.

**ESSA and Afterschool | April 19th 10:30-11:30 PST:** You will hear national policy updates from the Afterschool Alliance as we discuss the state and national opportunities to integrate informal STEM within ESSA implementation. We will be sharing updated policy information from the state and national level, including budget outlook.