



presents



Navigating STEM Resources & PD Opportunities

Presenters:

Faith Knocke (ACT Now)

Chelsey Echevarria (Girls Who Code)

Saundra Frerichs (Click2Science)

Perrin Chick (ACRES Project)

AGENDA



- Who is ACT Now?
- Why STEM in OST?
- ACT Now's STEM Guidebook
- **Girls Who Code** (Chelsey Echevarria)
- **Click2Science** (Saundra Frerichs)
- **ACRES Project** (Perrin Chick)

Who is ?

- The ACT Now Coalition works towards ensuring that young people in Illinois have access to quality, affordable afterschool and youth development programs.
- ACT Now is a diverse statewide coalition of various stakeholders across the state.

How we work:

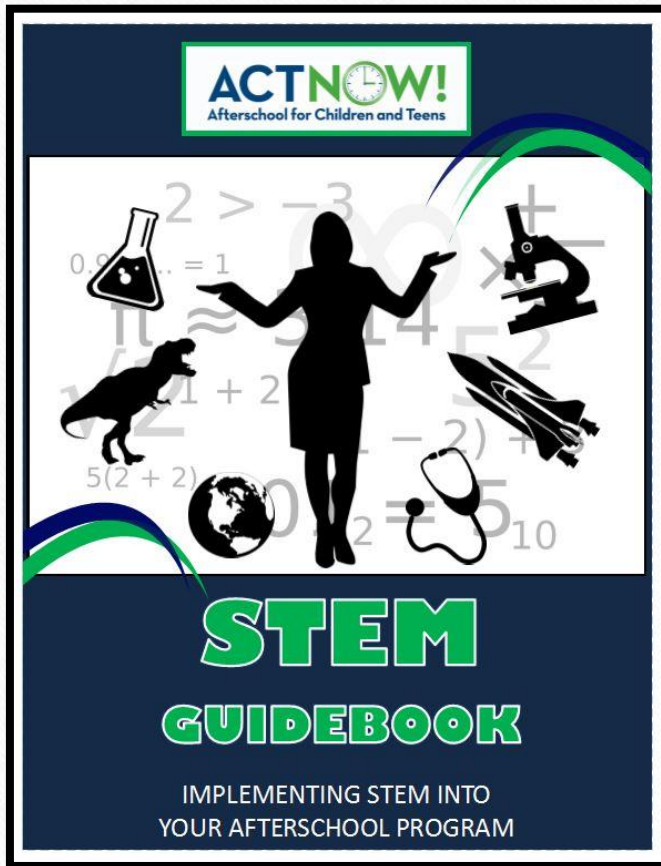
- Connect stakeholders and build effective partnerships
- Increase overall visibility of and support for afterschool programs
- **Share developments, research and best practices with the field**
- Advocate for afterschool programs with federal, state and local policymakers
- Provide advocacy training
- **Connect stakeholders to professional development**
- Offer support to afterschool programs just getting started
- Pursue sustainable system-wide funding and share new funding opportunities

Why STEM in OST?

- Exposing youth to STEM in OST is important given how fast the STEM workforce is growing.
- Afterschool programs have the unique opportunity to build and shape future coders, doctors, scientists, and engineers as these programs allow for **greater flexibility** not typically found in a classroom setting and provides students an opportunity to build and mold STEM skills.
 - Critical Thinking
 - Creativity
 - Problem-Solving
 - Teamwork
 - Leadership
- As an afterschool provider, **you do not have to have a STEM background** or have access to an expensive lab.



STEM Guidebook



ACT Now has created an easy to navigate, comprehensive guide of affordable STEM resources for afterschool providers to utilize and incorporate into their own programs.

Table of Contents

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Professional Development

The guidebook includes links to a variety of different resources including articles, webinars, and conferences to further your professional development in STEM



- Not having a degree in a STEM-related field should not be a barrier to implementing STEM into your own afterschool program
- There are plenty of resources available to help you develop STEM teaching skills and learn STEM subject areas alongside your students

Curriculum & Activities

Finding low-cost, quality resources for curriculum and activities to incorporate into your STEM programming can feel like a daunting task.

The STEM guidebook provides a chart that condenses the many great resources available!

| Curriculum & Activities Guide | | | | | | | | | | | |
|---|-------|------------|------------|---|---------|------------------|------------|-------------|-------------|---|--|
| Resource Name & Link | Grade | Curriculum | Activities | Cost/ Membership | Science | Environmentalism | Technology | Engineering | Mathematics | Other Features | |
| Hot Wheels Speedometry | K-4 | Y | Y | Materials required, Lesson Plans/Toolkit are free | N | N | N | Y | N | N/A | |
| Boeing | K-12 | Y | Y | Free | N | N | N | Y | N | Interactive media and design challenges | |
| STEM Activity Clearinghouse | K-12 | Y | Y | Free | Y | N | N | Y | N | Sells STEM-related supplies. | |
| Caterpillar | K-12 | Y | Y | Free | Y | N | N | N | Y | Printable Work Sheets | |
| Code.org | K-12 | Y | Y | Free | N | N | Y | N | N | Professional development opportunities | |
| Google: Made with Code | 4-12 | N | Y | Free | N | N | Y | N | N | Opportunities to host coding party | |
| Scratch/ CS First | K-12 | Y | Y | Free | N | N | Y | N | N | Computing guide | |
| Tynker | K-12 | Y | Y | Free, teachers need to sign up | N | N | Y | N | N | N/A | |
| NASA | 4-9 | Y | Y | Free | Y | N | N | Y | N | Professional development training modules | |
| Mozilla | 6-12 | N | Y | Free | N | N | Y | N | N | N/A | |

Planning & Assessment Tools

The planning and assessment tools provided allow afterschool providers to create quality STEM programming, provide evidence of success, and assist in policy and advocacy efforts.



These tools allow you to plan the implementation process, understand where your program is in regards to STEM education and where you want your program to improve in measuring your program's impact and outcomes.

Funding

- It is not unrealistic to implement STEM into your afterschool program
- Afterschool programs do not need to have a large amount of money to incorporate STEM.
 - However, there may be situations and particular projects that need additional funding



The guidebook includes a variety of public and private funding streams and recommendations to be used to help fund your program's future STEM progress, projects, and equipment.

Policy & Advocacy

Advocating for effective, quality policies to shape and support STEM education in afterschool raises awareness about the benefits of STEM education in afterschool programs and can help to secure sustainable public funding streams.



The guidebook includes resources that provide insight into the current policies impacting STEM in afterschool as well as strategies to advocate for your STEM program to be sustained, expanded, and funded.

Glossary of Resource Links

An ever-growing list of resource links!

Glossary of Resource Links

| Professional Development | Page |
|--|------|
| Edutopia https://www.edutopia.org | 5 |
| National Afterschool Association https://naaweb.org/ | 5 |
| NAA Membership Options https://naaweb.org/membership-information-page-Ambassador | |
| NAA STEM Gems https://naaweb.org/resources/stem-gems?highlight=WYJzdGVtIIO= | |
| Afterschool Coaching for Reflective Education (ACRES) https://mmsa.org/projects/acres/for-educators/ | 5 |
| Afterschool Tech Toolkit https://naaweb.org/afterschooltechtoolkit | 6 |
| Click 2 Science http://click2sciencepd.org/?utm_source=NAA&utm_medium=article&utm_campaign=STEMfinityNAAarticle | 6 |
| Concept Schools http://www.conceptschools.org/professional-development-stem-educators/ | 6 |
| Columbia College Chicago: Scientists for Tomorrow https://www.scientistsfortomorrow.org/modules/ | 6 |
| Scientists for Tomorrow Calendar https://www.scientistsfortomorrow.org/calendar/ | |
| National Science Teachers Association http://www.nsta.org/conferences/ | |
| Curriculum & Activities | Page |
| Hot Wheels Speedometry http://origin2.hotwheels.mattel.com/en-us/explore/speedometry/index.html | 7 |
| Boeing http://www.boeing.com/principles/education.page-/edu_resources | 7 |
| STEM Activity Clearinghouse http://clearinghouse.starnetlibraries.org/ | 7 |
| Caterpillar https://www.caterpillar.com/en/company/visitors-center/resources/student-activities.html | 7 |
| Code.org https://code.org/ | 7 |
| Google: Made with Code https://www.madewithcode.com/projects/ | 7 |



girls who
CODE

TEACHING GIRLS TO CODE AND CHANGE THE WORLD



OUR MISSION

Girls Who Code works to **inspire, educate, and equip girls** with the computing skills needed to pursue 21st century opportunities.

Our vision is to reach **gender parity** in computing and technology sectors.

OUR EDUCATIONAL PHILOSOPHY

We believe that ALL girls are creative and able to make a positive impact on the world through computer science.



MORE THAN CODE

Learning computational thinking and computer science cultivates girls' interests and prepares them for long-term success in computer science.



SISTERHOOD & COLLABORATION

Positive and supportive environments both enable & sustain the learning process and longevity in computer science.



REAL-WORLD RELEVANCE & IMPACT

Interest-based learning enables and empowers students to make an impact in their communities.

A grayscale photograph of two young women with long dark hair, laughing joyfully. The woman in the foreground is looking down and to the right, while the woman in the background is looking towards the camera. A teal banner is overlaid at the bottom of the image.

Clubs Programs Overview

GIRLS WHO CODE CLUBS

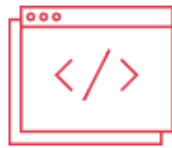
Clubs are FREE after-school programs for 3-12th grade girls to **join our sisterhood** of supportive peers and role models and **use computer science to change the world**.

Clubs are led by **Facilitators**, who can be teachers, librarians, parents, or volunteers from any background or field. **Many Facilitators have no computer science experience** and learn to code alongside their Club members.

We offer two Club programs for you to choose from:



3rd-5th Grade Clubs



6th-12th Grade Clubs



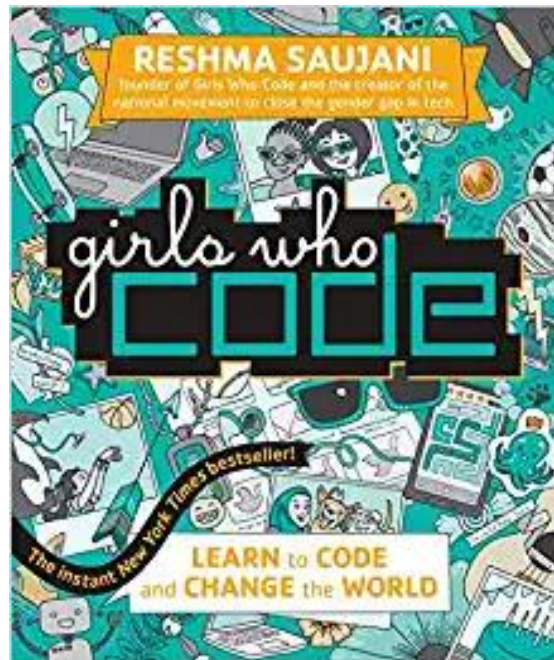
CLUBS MODEL

The two main Club Programs are divided by age group:

3-5TH GRADE CLUBS

Girls Who Code 3rd-5th Grade Clubs are a community of girls who actively **design, code, read and explore together.**

- **10 meetings** per school year
- **~45-60 minutes** during lunch, enrichment blocks, or after school



6-12TH GRADE CLUBS

Our Clubs are free after-school programs for 6-12th grade girls to **use computer science to impact their community** and join our sisterhood of supportive peers and role models.

Club girls work in teams to design and build a **Girls Who Code Project** that solves real world problems they care about through code.

- **Minimum of 10 meetings to the full academic year**
- **~1-2 hours per week** after school.



HOW WE SUPPORT CLUBS

Girls Who Code provides **FREE materials and curriculum** to the Club Facilitator in order to support you with:

- **CS Skills** Custom online training, online curriculum platform HQ, curriculum materials, and extended computer science resources
- **Community** Clubs Success Specialist, online community with thousands of other Girls Who Code Facilitators, and in-person and virtual events
- **Logistics Support** Recruitment Toolkits, Clubs Fund, and earlier access to resources

WHAT YOU NEED TO GET STARTED



It is easy as 1-2-3 to get started! Before you apply to start a 3-5th Grade or 6-12th Grade Club in your community, you'll need need:

1



Space in a non-profit location to host your club at least once a week

2

Computers and internet connection (6-12th Grade Clubs only)

3

A Facilitator who is over 18+ and will be responsible for administration and leading the Club curriculum.

OR

Copies of our non-fiction books (3-5th Grade Clubs only)

NO technical experience is needed!





LAUNCH A CLUB

If you are 18+, you can join the movement as a Club Facilitator! Clubs can be hosted at schools, libraries, community centers, college campuses, and other non-profits.

- **Already have a host site?** Apply today to start an individual Club at: <https://girlswhocode.com/start-a-club/>
- **Need a host site?** Complete our Facilitator Application at www.girlswhocode.com/volunteer. Our [Find a Club Site Toolkit](#) can also help you connect with organizations near you!

GIRLS WHO CODE SAMPLE CURRICULUM

What happens during a Girls Who Code Club session? Here's a quick snapshot!

6th-12th Grade Clubs

| | |
|----------------|--|
| 10 min | Build Sisterhood |
| 10 min | Women in Tech Spotlight |
| 60+ min | Self-Guided Coding Tutorials: Learn, Plan, Build, Celebrate |
| 10 min | Girls Who Code Standups |

3rd-5th Grade Clubs

| | |
|----------------|---------------------------|
| 10 min | Build Sisterhood |
| 15+ min | Read & Reflect |
| 20+ min | GWC Challenge |
| 5 min | Close-Out |



THANK YOU!

Want to connect? Email me at chelsey.echevarria@girlswhocode.com!

APPENDIX: RESOURCES

Clubs Overview: Explains requirements to start a Club and how Girls Who Code supports

Clubs Curriculum Overview: Shows what girls will learn in Clubs

Clubs Application: Apply to start a Club

Community Partner Outreach Toolkit: Outreach materials/template language

Clubs Community Partnership Overview: Information about Community Partnerships

Find a Club Site Toolkit: Find a location for a Club

A Model for Effective STEM Professional Development



High-Quality Programming through High-Quality Professional Development

Our Professional Development Model

Click2Science resources are design to be combined and used together to create a blended learning experience that makes a meaningful impact on staff. Learn more about our Professional Development Model to improve your own professional development facilitation.

[Professional Development Model](#)

Our Framework

Click2Science resources are built around three strategies for effectively facilitating STEM learning experiences in out-of-school time. Each strategy is supported by skills that staff and volunteers need in order to facilitate high-quality STEM programming.

[Strategies & Skills](#)





FRAMEWORK

Click2Science skills are the abilities frontline staff need to effectively facilitate high-quality STEM learning experiences with youth. The skills are designed to help staff achieve overarching strategies that lead to higher-quality education during out-of-school time.

PREPARING FOR SUCCESS IN STEM

- Preparing STEM Learning Opportunities
- Creating STEM Learning Environments

SUPPORTING YOUTH DEVELOPMENT DURING STEM

- Managing Groups During STEM
- Encouraging Collaborative STEM Work
- Facilitating Inclusive Learning Experiences
- Developing a STEM Identity
- Making Connections to STEM Careers
- Connecting to Prior Knowledge & Experiences
- Giving Youth Control

DEVELOPING STEM PRACTICES & MINDSET

- Enabling Active STEM Learning
- Modeling Science Practices
- Modeling Engineering Practices
- Supporting Documentation of STEM Learning
- Asking Purposeful Questions
- Reflecting & Processing Experiences
- Making Authentic Assessments







STEM PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT FOR
OUT-OF-SCHOOL TIME PROGRAM PROVIDERS

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Click2SciencePD offers STEM professional development
resources for out-of-school time programs.

[Login](#) | [Register](#)

WEBINAR

Webinar
**Why STEM is Important to
Young People**



Blog
**Staff are the Key to Quality
OST Programs**



Blog
**STEM Celebrations in
October**

Find Resources for...



[Frontline Staff & Volunteers](#)

Improve your own STEM facilitation skills to
increase youth's learning.

[Explore Resources for Frontline Staff](#) [→](#)



[Trainers & Coaches](#)

Help staff or volunteers improve their STEM
facilitation skills by providing high-quality
professional development.

[Explore Resources for Trainers & Coaches](#) [→](#)



[Program Leaders](#)

Improve overall program quality by
incorporating high-quality STEM facilitation
and professional development.

[Explore Resources for Program Leaders](#) [→](#)



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Frontline Staff & Volunteers

Looking to improve your own STEM facilitation skills? Click2Science offers resources to help you make a difference in the lives of the children you work with.



Self-directed Web Lessons

Click2Science Web Lessons offer self-directed, on-demand professional development for frontline staff and volunteers. Web Lessons are hosted on Penn State Extension's Better Kid Care learning management system.

[About Lessons](#)

Webinars

Click2Science hosts virtual professional development webinars each month focused on out-of-school time learning environments, STEM, professional development best practices, and other relevant events. All webinars are recorded and made available for on-demand viewing.

[Browse Webinars](#)

Other Resources

Click2Science offers additional resources for frontline staff and volunteers interested in extending their own learning outside of facilitated professional development.

- [Blog](#)
- [Featured Video-Based Learning Modules](#)
- [Activities for Practicing Skills](#)



CLICK 2
SCIENCE^{pd}

STEM PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT FOR
OUT-OF-SCHOOL TIME PROGRAM PROVIDERS

Staff Development
Guides

Self-directed
Web Lessons

Webinars

Blog

Latest News

Web Lessons

Asking Purposeful Questions

Out-of-school time leaders can have a unique impact on the science, technology, engineering, and math skills of school-age children. This lesson is one of 20 Click2Science lessons designed to help frontline staff facilitate STEM experiences. It features interactive experiences, handouts, and videos that will nurture the ability to ask purposeful questions, enhancing a child's STEM learning. It includes both basic and "stretch" information about intentional questioning techniques.

Strategy: Interacting with Youth
During STEM
Skill: Lorem Ipsum

Objectives

- Itemize different kinds of questions and explain likely outcomes of each. Based on these outcomes, select intentional questions to enhance interactions and increase STEM thinking and learning.
- Analyze questioning patterns and compare them to those recommended for effective STEM facilitation.
- Create several questions that could be incorporated into current programming with school-age children to promote higher levels of inquiry and problem-solving.

Get Started

Click2Science Web Lessons are hosted on Penn State Extension's Better Kid Care learning management system. Get started by [learning more about our Web Lessons](#) and reviewing our [instructions for accessing Web Lessons](#). After reviewing the instructions, visit Better Kid Care to begin this online lesson.

Visit Better Kid Care



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SCIENCE^{pd}

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[CDA Course](#)[Early Learning Professionals](#)[School-Age Professionals](#)[School-age Modules](#)[Coaching](#)[Family Child Care Professionals](#)[Parents & Families](#)[Coach & Instructor Resources](#)[Directors](#)[About Us](#)[BKC PD Alignments](#)[Required Health and Safety Training](#)[On Demand Web Lessons](#)[Module Approvals in Your State](#)

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Better Kid Care Team

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Click2Science

Online STEM professional development for out-of-school providers. Twenty modules available in English and Spanish.

Do you work with children in out-of-school settings? Out-of-school-time leaders can have a unique impact on the science, technology, engineering, and math skills of school-age youth. Click2Science is a series of twenty *Skills to Make STEM Click* and professional development materials designed to help front line staff facilitate STEM experiences.

Periodic Table of Click2Science Modules

| | | | | |
|---------|---------|---------|---------|-----------|
| C CP | S S | R AP | D SL | MOD EL |
| C SS | A PQ | C PK | E AL | M CC |
| M SS | G YC | G M | E CW | D SI |
| PY F | M AA | S I | T T | H L |

Ready to take a lesson? [Click here to register or sign-in to access Click2Science-based On Demand modules.](#) After signing in or registering for the On Demand system, select "Lesson Series" or "Course" from the side bar on the left. There are free downloadable resources and interactive experiences in each lesson.

Better Kid Care is partnering with the national Click2Science program to deliver the self-learning modules. See how Better Kid Care modules fit into the overall [Click2Science Professional Development model](#). Register at the [Click2SciencePD](#) website to access other helpful materials including [Staff Development Guides](#), rich with [video-based learning modules](#).



[Download this flyer which summarizes the Click2Science series and share it with others! \(PDF\)](#)

Click2Science modules

(Todos los lecciones disponible en *Español*)

- [Click2Science: Asking Purposeful Questions](#)
- [Click2Science: Connected Learning](#)
- [Click2Science: Connecting to STEM careers](#)
- [Click2Science: Connecting with Community Partners](#)
- [Click2Science: Creating a Safe Space for STEM Learning](#)
- [Click2Science: Developing a Science and Engineering Identity](#)
- [Click2Science: Embracing Active STEM Learning](#)
- [Click2Science: Giving Youth Control](#)



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[Browse Webinars](#)

Other Resources

Click2Science offers additional resources for frontline staff and volunteers interested in extending their own learning outside of facilitated professional development.

- [Blog](#)
- [Featured Video-Based Learning Modules](#)
- [Activities for Practicing Skills](#)

Upcoming Webinar

Quality Programming with Trained Staff - Make it Happen

Participating in high-quality out-of-school time programs can have a life-long impact on youth. Improving program quality has been shown to have a positive impact on youth and on program staff. This webinar will present low-cost, easy-to-use resources to improve your overall program quality. You will connect with current research on OST program quality, and see how it applies to your own program.

Register Now!

Date: March 8, 2017

Time: 1:00 pm CST

Strategy: [Lorem Ipsum](#)

Skill: [Supporting Documentation of STEM Learning](#)

On-Demand Webinars

Strategy

- ANY -

Skill

- ANY -

Date

- ANY -



Knowing When STEM Learning Runs Deep

Participating in high-quality out-of-school time programs can have a life-long impact on youth. Improving program quality has been shown to have a positive impact on youth and on program staff. This webinar will present low-cost, easy-to-use resources to improve your overall program quality. You will connect



Partner Collaboration Impacts Youth Collaboration

Participating in high-quality out-of-school time programs can have a life-long impact on youth. Improving program quality has been shown to have a positive impact on youth and on program staff. This webinar will present low-cost, easy-to-use resources to



Creatively Using Your Space, Time & Materials

Participating in high-quality out-of-school time programs can have a life-long impact on youth. Improving program quality has been shown to have a positive impact on youth and on program staff. This webinar will present low-cost, easy-to-use resources to



Featured

Staff are the Key to Quality OST Programs

Even though our legislators and government don't always appear to see the importance of out-of-school time (OST) programs, those of us who have worked in the field or have children who attend these programs, know that they make a huge difference in the lives of children.



STEM Celebrations in October

October 2, 2018

Computer Learning Month Month of



Making Connections to STEAM Careers

September 25, 2018

At an early age, I discovered a talent



What is STEAM?

September 11, 2018

Recently, STEAM has caught on as a buzzword in K-12 and afterschool

Implementing Click2Science at the Y-USA



Background Summary:



Representatives from Click2SciencePD (C2S) collaborated with the Y-USA to recruit participants from four locations (Fort Worth, Memphis, San Antonio, and St. Louis). A small group of leaders from each location participated in C2S training put on by C2S staff in the fall of 2016. These leaders were then responsible for training 10 frontline staff at their respective locations between fall 2016 and spring 2017. The triangulated, comprehensive evaluation included interview/focus groups with site leaders and frontline staff following training, pre- and post-training observations of frontline staff using the Dimensions of Success (DoS) protocol, and collection of youth data.



Site leaders and frontline staff had positive perceptions of their experiences with C2S training.

"So many times staff take a training and it's the theory of STEM...I felt Click2Science provided them [staff] with the actual skills of this is how you ask purposeful questions or this is an example of someone in a tinkering room asking purposeful questions." – **Leader**

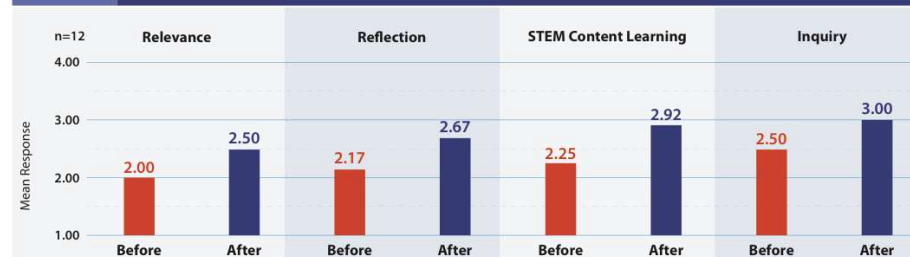
"I felt that it [Click2Science training] helped make me stronger in a lot of places I didn't realize I was weak in." – **Frontline staff**

"Knowing that they [staff] are touching lives in STEM is something we haven't done before –Click2Science helped bridge that gap and made it possible." – **Leader**

"In the Click2Science training I've been able to take back things like purposeful questions, making sure I'm hands on with a group, and also allowing the kids to feel like they know how to be in certain roles, like they can be in leadership roles." – **Frontline staff**



Frontline staff selected for observations improved over time on 11 out of the 12 DoS dimensions. Highest gains were found on the inquiry, reflection, relevance, STEM content learning and youth voice dimensions.



Developing a Plan

1. What is the need?
2. What skills meet your need?
3. Consider logistics

Then-

Create your plan



Professional Development Model

Staff development guides are designed to be combined and used together as part of a larger professional development plan. The Click2Science Professional Development Model is an example of how staff development guides, web lessons, and practice can be combined for achieving high-quality professional development.

Trainers & Coaches

Click2SciencePD offers STEM professional development resources for those responsible for providing professional development to others, including frontline staff and volunteers working directly with youth. Save time and money on professional development. Train OST staff and volunteers with easy-to-use resources.



Staff Development Guides

Step-by-step guides are designed for trainers and coaches to use when providing professional development to frontline staff or volunteers. Staff development guides include agendas, social and experiential learning activities, videos learning modules, supporting documents and handouts.

[About Guides](#)

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- [Featured Video-Based Learning Modules](#)
- [Activities for Practicing Skills](#)

About Staff Development Guides

Click2Science Staff Development Guides are designed for trainers and coaches to use when providing professional development to frontline staff and volunteers. These downloadable step-by-step professional development guides include agendas, social and experiential learning activities, video-based learning modules, supporting documents, and handouts. Not associated with a particular program or curriculum, guides focus on the skills staff need to create high-quality STEM learning experiences with youth.

Situations

Click2Science Staff Development Guides range from 15-120 minutes in length and are useful in a variety of professional development situations.



Training

Large Groups
50-120 minutes



Meeting

Small Group
15-35 minutes



Coaching

One-on-One
15-60 minutes

Supporting Youth Development Through STEM

Encouraging Collaboration

Purpose: To effectively facilitate collaborative STEM learning experiences.

As a result of ongoing, consistent professional development efforts, frontline staff and volunteers will be able to:

- Portray science as a collaborative effort that involves groups of people working together.
- Understand that collaboration and interaction are necessary in science and engineering learning experiences.
- Design STEM activities for youth to practice cooperation and collaboration.
- Directly teach what collaborative behavior looks and sounds like.
- Engage all learners in STEM activities.

Staff Development Guides

Staff development guides are designed for coaches and trainers to use when providing professional development to frontline staff or volunteers. These downloadable step-by-step professional development guides include agendas, social and experiential learning activities, videos learning modules, supporting documents and handouts. The guides available below are design to support the skill Encouraging Collaboration. For more information about Staff Development Guides, please visit [About Staff Development Guides](#).

Applying Strategies for Documenting STEM

Frontline staff or volunteers will document their learning with three activities: "Sink or Float," "Paper Airplanes," and Amphibi-an/Fish Comparison". They will also complete a self-reflection and set goals for their practice.

Situation: [Training](#)
Strategy: [Lorem Ipsum](#)
Skill: [Supporting Documentnation of STEM Learning](#)
Time: [90 minutes](#)

Learn More

6 LIKES BOOKMARK

Like a Real Engineer

Create an action plan for engaging youth in STEM by encouraging them to deepen their understanding by reflecting on and processing experiences.

Situation: [Training](#)
Strategy: [Lorem Ipsum](#)
Skill: [Supporting Documentnation of STEM Learning](#)
Time: [90 minutes](#)

Learn More

6 LIKES BOOKMARK

Making Learning Fun

Create an action plan for engaging youth in STEM by encouraging them to deepen their understanding by reflecting on and processing experiences.

Situation: [Training](#)
Strategy: [Lorem Ipsum](#)
Skill: [Supporting Documentnation of STEM Learning](#)
Time: [90 minutes](#)

Learn More

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Connect with Click2Science

sfrerichs3@unl.edu

click2sciencepd@unl.edu

click2sciencepd.org

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ACRES

Afterschool Coaching for Reflective Educators in STEM



ACRES

AFTERSCHOOL COACHING
FOR REFLECTIVE EDUCATORS IN STEM

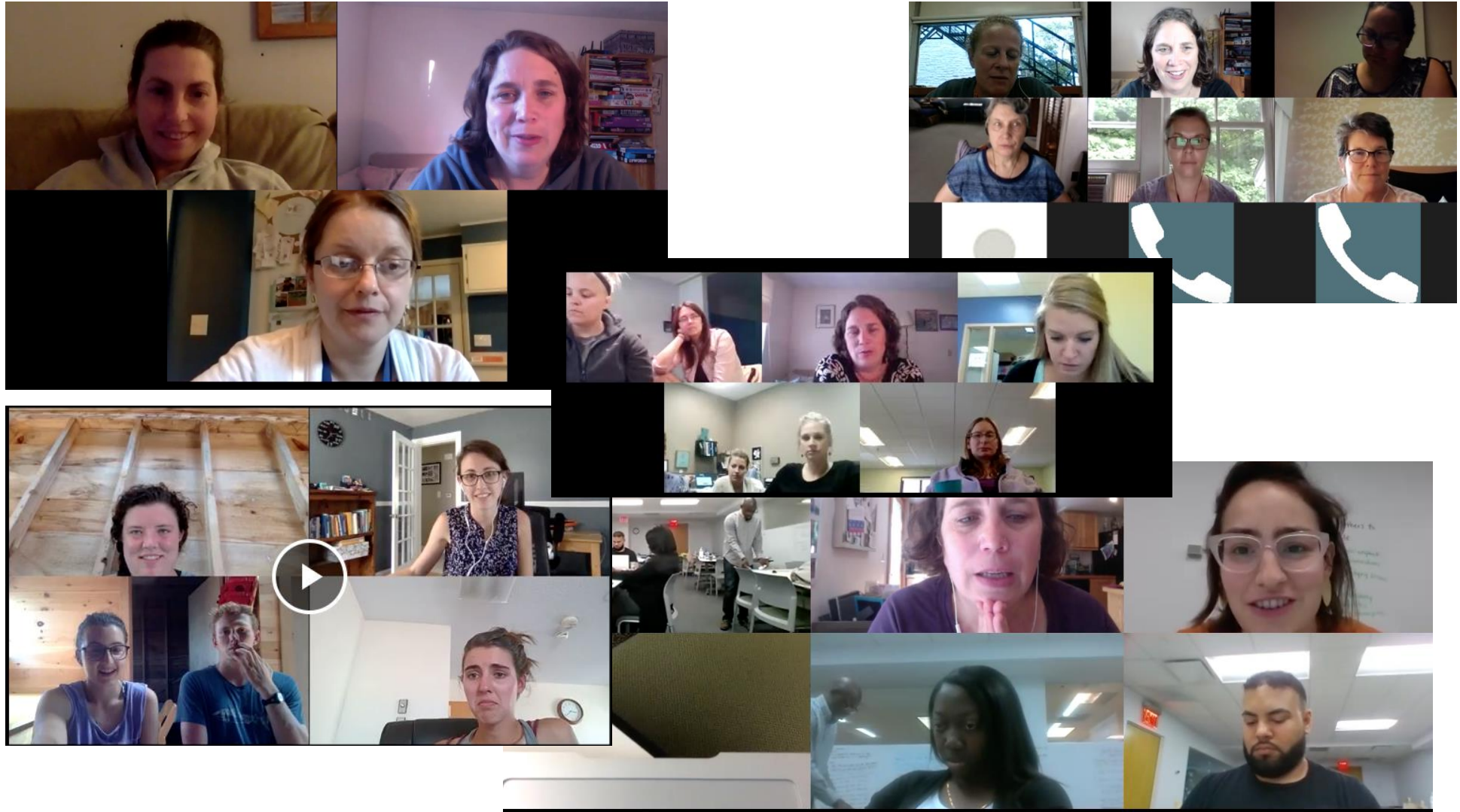
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engage...practice...reflect

[Sign up for ACRES Professional Development](#)

ACRES is a nationally acclaimed coaching program that builds knowledge and skills so afterschool educators, librarians and anyone who works with youth in out-of-school settings can confidently facilitate Science, Technology, Engineering, and Math (STEM) experiences for youth. Thanks to generous funding from several national foundations, the program is currently offered at no cost to participants.

The look and feel of ACRES



Get Involved

Join a Cohort

Become a Coach

Partner with Acres

Resources & Forms



Sampling ACRES

Now sketch a different version of this image.
What could you design that could improve this scene in the future?



THE ACRES PROJECT

Afterschool Coaching for Rural Educators in STEM

What is ACRES?

A new major national afterschool project is seeking interested organizations in rural states to participate in an innovative, video-based coaching curriculum in STEM.

Pay no fee to participate: The Noyce Foundation has made a substantial investment in the Maine Mathematics and Science Alliance to have the ACRES team build online professional development. For chosen sites, we provide free coaching and support.

Experience innovative and reflective professional development: The heart of the coaching model is a group of participants who get to learn and practice skills that research has shown are key to being an effective STEM facilitator in afterschool settings. Participants learn in a collegial atmosphere, viewing each others' video-recorded interactions with youth.



Program Strengths

Expert Facilitation: Participants identified the facilitation skills of the coach as a strength of the training, as the coach gave good feedback and made the participants feel comfortable throughout the process.

"[Coach] was amazing. I got excellent feedback from her. It was nice to take a fresh look at my teaching practice and to reevaluate what I am doing and check in with myself and be more reflective."

Professional Learning Community: 100% of participants stated that they benefited from the sharing educators in their group. They valued receiving feedback, the camaraderie of the group, and being able to share struggles and lessons learned.

"The greatest strength of the ACRES course was being able to share videos and receive input from peers. Being able to see how others implemented what we were learning, and how kids responded, was an invaluable learning tool."

Universal Application: Participants felt that the skills taught in the course were universally beneficial to anyone working with youth or in education.

"This course is well suited for anyone that works with youth in a group setting. While the topics covered are geared towards STEM activities, I found the information useful for other activities that I do with youth."



For more information contact:
acres@mmsa.org

ACRES Success

Over the past three years, ACRES has successfully coached over 50 educators in effective STEM practices. Below are some findings from interviews and survey data:

- ACRES training is widely valued by participants
- 96% of ACRES participants would recommend the course to someone else
- 93% of participants would take another course in the same format
- 89% of participants felt their work with youth changed after an ACRES course

Develop skills for working with youth: Participants gained both STEM-specific skills as well as facilitation skills that transcend discipline.

"Purposeful Questions have been so powerful and impactful for me and the way I teach in my classroom. ACRES is one of the few courses I've had that is over 1 year old and I am still using what I learned. It has made me a better teacher and made my students better learners."

"I learned so many tips and tricks about working with kids, and I've never even run a science program before. I'm in the process of establishing a STEM club at my school and ACRES has been the catalyst and has given me the confidence to do that."



89% of participants felt their work with youth changed after an ACRES course

“The greatest strength of the ACRES course was being able to share videos and receive input from peers. Seeing how others implemented what we were learning, and how kids responded, was an invaluable learning tool.”

Publications

- Brasili, A. & Allen, S. (in press). Beyond the webinar: Dynamic STEM professional development for online learners. *Afterschool Matters*.
- Allen, S., Brasili, A., Byrd, S. Chick, P.C., Ouellette, K., & Lobley, J. (2018, March). *Adapting video-based reflections to afterschool settings*. Paper presented at the annual meeting of the National Association for Research in Science Teaching, Atlanta, GA.
- Brasili, A., Allen, S., & Foster, M. (2017). *The ACRES project (Afterschool Coaching for Reflective Educators in STEM) Evaluation Report 1: Impacts on afterschool educators*.
- Brasili, A., Allen, S., & Foster, M. (2017). *The ACRES project (Afterschool Coaching for Reflective Educators in STEM) Evaluation Report 2: Reflections of the coaches*.
- Lobley, J. & Ouellette, K.L., (2017) Using videoconferencing to create authentic online learning for volunteers. *Journal of Extension* 55 (5).
- Allen, S. & Ouellette, K. (2016). *Building coaching relationships over the internet*. *AfterSchool Today*, 7(3), (pp.12-13).

For more information about ACRES

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